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Member Association News

New England WEA ([NEWEA](#))

The *NEWEA Annual conference* was held in Boston, Massachusetts on **January 21-24, 2018**. The three Collection System Sessions at the NEWEA Annual Conference included the following:

Collection Systems 1: To Dig or Not to Dig, That is the Question

- ◆ Downtown Sewer System Rehabilitation Light on Study – Heavy on Rehab
- ◆ A "CIPP First" Approach Changes Community from Reactive Scramblers to Proactive Believers
- ◆ Designing for Construction – Trenchless Solutions for the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission
- ◆ Framingham Interchange 12 Interceptor – Trenchless Technologies Can Apply to New Pipelines Too!

Collection Systems 2: Pumped for Resilience

- ◆ Rerouting Worcester's Sewer – The New Whitla Drive Pump Station
- ◆ Increasing the Resilience of Vulnerable Infrastructure In the Face of Climate Change – A Tale of Two Communities
- ◆ Winning the War Against Wipes
- ◆ Not Just Another Leak in the Pipe

Collection Systems 3: An Odor! An Inline Storage! My Kingdom for Alternative Delivery!

- ◆ Oneida County, NY – A Case Study for Continuous Improvement
- ◆ Reducing H2S and Odors with Super-oxygenated Wastewater
- ◆ Westminster's Approach to Increasing Sewer System Capacity and Cost-Effectively Lifting Its Sewer Connection Moratorium – Inline Storage!

◆ Alternative Project Delivery Allows New Wastewater System to Unlock Economic Opportunity for Rural Community

During the NEWEA Awards Ceremony, the James J. Courchaine Collection Systems Award was presented to **George Kathios**.

The attendance was pretty close to 2,000 attendees.

Upcoming Events:

NEWEA 2018 Spring Meeting is scheduled for **June 3-6, 2018** in Newport, Rhode Island.

North Carolina WEA ([NC AWWA-WEA](#))

2018 NC AWWA-WEA School Schedule

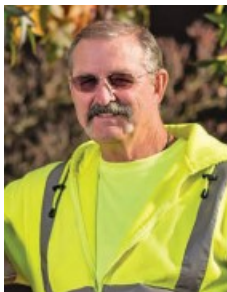
If you plan to attend a certification school in 2018, mark your calendars now with the following dates. Details and registration information will be posted online as each school approaches. School information will also be mailed to members in the 2018 Training Catalogs.

- ◆ **Eastern Biological Wastewater Operators School**
April 23-27, 2018 in Raleigh, NC
- ◆ **Eastern Maintenance Technologist School**
April 23-26, 2018 in Raleigh, NC
- ◆ **Physical/Chemical Wastewater Operators Schools**
April 24-27, 2018 in Raleigh, NC
- ◆ **Western Collections & Distribution School**
July 9-13, 2018 in Morganton, NC
- ◆ **Western Biological Wastewater Operators School**
August 13-17, 2018 in Morganton, NC
- ◆ **Western Maintenance Technologist School**
August 13-17, 2018 in Morganton, NC
- ◆ **Central Collections & Distributions School**
Greensboro, NC - Fall date to be determined

For more information and to sign up for a certification school, [click here](#).



George Kathios receiving his award. (Photo: NEWEA)



Pacific Northwest WEA ([PNCWA](#))
OR Collections Operator of the Year
featured in *MSW Magazine*

Dean Ronk, RUSA Collections Operator and OR and PNCWA Collections Operator of the Year in 2017 was recently featured in *MSW Magazine*.

"Giving 110 percent is the clichéd territory of coaches and bad managers. Giving 150 percent is Dean Ronk's territory."

Member Association News (continued)

That's essentially what Ronk, a collections system operator with the Roseburg (Oregon) Urban Sanitary Authority, was asked to do when he was tasked with taking the 160-mile system from a 10-year inspection cycle to a seven-year cycle.

That equates to 23 miles per year — just shy of a 150 percent increase from the previous 16-mile-per-year goal. And that's not counting the 4,100 manholes that are also part of the seven-year cycle.

"A 10-year program, that's really nothing," Ronk says. "I mean, anybody could get that done, but a seven-year, that was a big challenge."

It would be a lofty target for any small-utility operator, but Ronk not only hit that benchmark, he overshot it.

"Currently, he's working on about a 6.4-year completion," says Steve Lusch, collections system superintendent with the Roseburg Urban Sanitary Authority. "He basically does that all on his own; he runs that program, and we gave him a timeline." To learn more, [click here](#).

WEA of South Carolina (WEASC)



The South Carolina Environmental Conference (SCEC) "Water Life" was held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on **March 11-14, 2018**. The Wastewater Collection Systems presentations at the SCEC Annual Conference included the following:

- ◆ Long Term Flow Metering for a Seasonal Coastal Community
- ◆ Design & Construction of an H2S Resistant Gravity Sewer
- ◆ Modeling Transformation of Wastewater from Pipes to Plant
- ◆ A Comparison of Four Types of Sewage Drop Structures through Physical Modeling
- ◆ Collection System Bioaugmentation
- ◆ Protecting the Future Through Sustainable Planning & Design to Prevent Catastrophic Failure in a Flood
- ◆ Considering the Future: Upgrading Existing Infrastructure to Prepare for Growth in Northern Greenville County
- ◆ York County's New Regional Wastewater Conveyance System
- ◆ North Charleston Sewer District's Ashley Interceptor Sewer Rehabilitation by Cured-In Place Methodology
- ◆ A Streetcar Named Desire? Lessons Learned in Performing Sewer Rehabilitation in a Heavily Urban Area
- ◆ A Winning the War Against Wipes
- ◆ Columbia's \$750 Million Consent Decree: Program Update & Implementing Best Management Practices
- ◆ Selection of Collection System Odor Control Technologies: Bench- & Full-Scale Testing for Charlotte Water
- ◆ Hydraulic Modeling in a Manifold Force Main System for Mount Pleasant Waterworks
- ◆ Condition Assessment Through SSES – The Keys to Successful Pipeline Rehabilitation
- ◆ Optimizing Wastewater Collection System Inspection & Assessment through Acoustic Technology
- ◆ Going Deep – Innovation Tunnel Design Beneath Downtown Greenville, SC
- ◆ Risk Based Predictive Maintenance Solutions for Sewer Main Cleaning – Schedules? We Do Need a Stinking Schedule!
- ◆ Understanding Pneumatically – Induced Hydraulic Surges & Geysers in Sewers
- ◆ Protecting Concrete Structures from MIC Using Antimicrobial Additive

WEA of Texas (WEAT)

WEAT Collections Conference '18: Back to Basics: Collection System O&M in a World of Innovation
Leigh Cerda, P.E., WEAT President-Elect and Collections Committee Chair



The WEAT Collections Committee hosted the fourth in a series of Specialty Conferences on **January 16-17, 2018** at the Embassy Suites and Conference Center in San Marcos, Texas. The conference was entitled "Back to Basic: Collection System O&M in a World of Innovation" with a focus on wastewater collection system operations and maintenance in today's world of new technologies as well as tried/true methods. The conference set many records for WEAT Collections, with 170 registrants, 27 exhibitors and 9 sponsors.

The conference was moderated by David Koberlein, P.E., GISP, CFM of Burgess & Niple, Inc., Collections Conference Technical Program Chair, and included presentations given by 15 speakers from various areas of the wastewater collection system industry. James Courchaine and Rhonda Harris, P.E. of Tata & Howard began the conference technical program presenting "Setting and Justifying Staffing Levels in Water & Wastewater Organizations." "Using Manhole Inspection to Kick-Start Collection of O&M Data: Experience from a Small City" was presented by Rebekkah Sandt, P.E., of HR Green. Katie Maxfield of CDM Smith presented "Levering Data Analytics to Turn Operational Information into Insight." After a Networking break in the exhibit hall and lunch, Mark Perkins, P.E., presented "Sewage Air Release Valves: Keeping a Necessary Evil from Becoming Unnecessarily Evil," followed by Kevin Enflinger, P.E., with ADS Environmental Services presented "An Ounce of Prevention is Worth Pound of Cure: Stopping SSOs Before they Occur." Robert Domkowski, P.E., Xlylem presented before the afternoon exhibit hall networking break "Intelligent Submersible Wastewater Pumping – the Next Pump Industry Breakthrough." Kathy Romans with Raven Linings followed the break with "Do you Really Know your Manholes? NASSCO's Manhole Inspection Trainer Certification Program (ITCP)." "Sewer Line Inspection and Cleaning Innovations" presented by Bruce Jameson of Ace Pipe Cleaning ended day one and transitioned to the evening Networking Reception in the exhibit hall.

Day two began with "Condition Assessment and Electronic O&M Manuals for NTMWD Lift Stations in 8 Months" presented by Justin Diviney of NTMWD and Joel Cantwell, P.E., of HDR. Noelle Gaspard, P.E., GISP, CFM of RJN Group presented "Utilizing Advanced Technologies for Mapping Condition Assessment and Maser Planning." Jennifer Moore of TRA presented "Characterizing Non-Dispersible: Methodology Visualization, and Data Driven Outreach-Based Mitigation" followed by the first networking break of the day in the exhibit hall. Following the break, Julie Nahrgang, Executive Director of WEAT presented "Hurricanes and Floods – What did WEAT Do." The conference concluded with Leigh Cerda, P.E. of Burgess & Niple, presenting "Funding and Innovative Contracting Vehicles" and conference closing comments.



Upcoming Events:

Texas Water 2018 will be held on **April 23-26, 2018** in San Antonio, TX.

You won't want to miss out on the largest regional water conference in the US. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

Collection Systems Awards

In each issue we like to recognize professionals and/or utilities in your Member Association (MA) who received a distinguished award in collection systems. Please contact Bri Nakamura at bnakamura@wef.org if you would like to contribute.

New England WEA ([NEWEA](#))

James J. Courchaine Collection Systems Award

- ♦ **George Kathios**

WEA of South Carolina ([WEASC](#))

The following awards were given at the 2018 South Carolina Environmental Conference:

- ♦ Dennis Pittman Award – **Jay Reynolds** – Greenwood Metro
- ♦ Golden Manhole – **Mike Ping** – Hydrostructures (Formerly Heyward Inc)
- ♦ Golden Manhole - **Michael Coffey** (Joint Municipal)
- ♦ **Taylor's FSD** - Excellence in collection system award



WEF Collection Systems Committee ([CSC](#))

The WEF CSC Committee would like to congratulate **Stu Bowns** on his recent retirement. Stu has been an active member of WEF and the Collection System Committee since the mid 1980's. Reading abstracts over the Christmas Holidays for the past 15 years on the Collection System's Program Symposia while diving with sharks as Santa Claus.

Mr. Bowns has had a 30+ year career in the Water and Wastewater Industry. Becoming a leader and mentor to our collection system industry. His hard-work, attention to client details and travels has not gone unnoticed by his fellow colleagues.

Congratulations on your retirement! As you take time to travel for leisure, make sure you identify the correct state when visiting Greenville!

Thank you for being a tireless professional, a helpful committee member, and a good friend. Now go and relax!

Technical News



Professor Sunil Sinha (Photo: V. Tech)

Virginia Tech leads efforts to develop national water pipeline database

Virginia Tech is leading a five-year U.S. Bureau of Reclamation-funded effort to collect data on the reliability of the nation's aging water pipelines and then to establish an infrastructure database for resilient and sustainable water systems.

Infrastructure problems, drought, flooding, and population growth have left regions across the nation facing water-related challenges. Infrastructure systems have been neglected and are failing at unacceptable rates as demands on them increase.

To answer this challenge, Virginia Tech researchers will collect high-quality field performance data on reliability for water pipelines of different materials, including cast iron, ductile iron, reinforced concrete, steel, lead, plastic, thermoplastic, and others. This study will include analyses of the economics, cost-effectiveness, and life-cycle costs associated with the various water pipe materials under evaluation.

Sunil Sinha, professor in the Charles E. Via Jr. [Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering](#) in the [College of Engineering](#), will work to develop a national database, named **PIPEiD**, otherwise known as Pipeline Infrastructure Database, that will efficiently and securely store the collected data.

The infrastructure database will enable users to conduct performance and life-cycle economic analyses of water pipeline infrastructure systems. Additionally, the database will help advance understanding of water pipeline performance and the development of digital models and tools for resiliency and sustainability that will benefit asset management practitioners and the workforce to aid in better decision making.

The database will also enable the bureau to affordably develop and implement robust decision-support systems to understand the condition and failure risk profiles of water pipeline infrastructure systems and to predict life-cycle management needs.

To learn more about the PIPEiD database, [click here](#).



EPA Announces New Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for WIFIA

On April 4, 2018 the [EPA announced](#) the availability of approximately \$5.5 billion in credit assistance for water infrastructure projects under the [Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act \(WIFIA\) program](#). This financing will help support approximately \$11 billion in total infrastructure investment.

In the [Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\)](#), the WIFIA program solicits letters of interest from prospective borrowers seeking credit assistance from EPA. The NOFA outlines the process that prospective borrowers must follow to be considered for WIFIA credit assistance and establishes relative weights for the selection criteria. Priorities for Fiscal Year 2018 are (1) provide for clean and safe drinking water, including reducing exposure to lead in the nation's drinking water systems and (2) repair, rehabilitate, and replace aging infrastructure and conveyance systems. Letters of interest from prospective borrowers seeking WIFIA loans will be accepted until 12:00 PM (noon) EDT on July 6, 2018.

The [WIFIA program website](#) has been updated to include resources to assist prospective borrowers seeking credit assistance, including:

- ♦ [Application Materials](#), including a new Letter of Interest form, example, and checklist; and
- ♦ Updated [WIFIA Program Handbook](#).

Recently, the WIFIA program received \$63 million total in funding in the FY18 Omnibus Appropriations bill. WEF and other water sector leaders were pleased with this and hope to reauthorize the program and boost funding in FY19.

For more information on WIFIA, can [register](#) for one of the webinars that EPA will host during the Letter of Interest submittal period. The webinars will provide a short overview of the WIFIA program and explain the process for submitting and evaluating WIFIA letters of interest. Following the webinars, EPA will post a copy of the presentation and a recording of the webinar on the [WIFIA website](#). To receive announcements about the WIFIA program and notifications about additional resources, you can sign up on the [EPA website](#).



NASSCO Names New Executive Director

After an extensive, nation-wide search, the Executive Board of the National Association of Sewer Service Companies ([NASSCO](#)) announces the appointment of **Sheila Joy** as its Executive Director effective April 2, 2018. Sheila will report to NASSCO's Board of Directors and lead NASSCO in its ongoing mission to set standards for the assessment, maintenance and rehabilitation of underground infrastructure and to assure the continued acceptance and growth of trenchless technologies.



NASSCO Executive Director
Sheila Joy (Photo: NASSCO)

"We believe the time is right to take NASSCO to the next level," said Pete Kurz, NASSCO's current President. "We have seen strong momentum built over the years through the unique skills and talents provided by our past Executive Directors. In the early 2000s Mike Burkhard stepped in to help NASSCO establish a solid, financial footing. Irv Gemora was instrumental in positioning PACP [Pipeline Assessment Certification Program] and ITCP [Inspector Training Certification Program] as standards throughout North America, and Ted DeBoda helped develop relationships with universities and other organizations aligned to our industry. NASSCO's strategic plan now includes a higher level of volunteerism, particularly as it pertains to NASSCO Committee productivity and deliverables. It also identifies building greater awareness of NASSCO and, most importantly, developing programs that directly benefit our members. While we interviewed many highly qualified candidates, we concurred that Sheila's experience and industry relationships will best help NASSCO's Board, Staff and Committees accomplish those specific goals."

Congratulations to new Executive Director Sheila Joy! To learn more about Sheila and her new position at NASSCO, [click here](#).

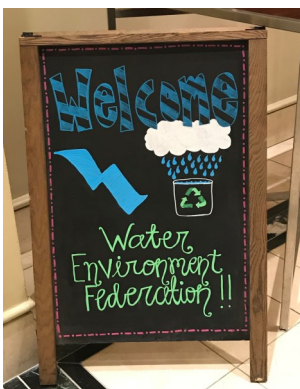
WEF News

Yarrrr—Collection Systems Committee at Midyear 2018

On February 7-9, 2018 WEF held the annual Mid Year Planning Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia at the Grand Hyatt Atlanta in Buckhead.

This year, the Collection Systems Committee met on Thursday, February 8th. Similar to last year, we continued with the revised meeting structure, to keep the meeting informative, interactive, and interesting.

After introductions, there was a brief moment of silence for past Collection Systems Award winner and CSC Member, **Roy Herwig**, who passed away in December 2017.



Welcome sign at the Grand Hyatt Atlanta in Buckhead
(Photo: B. Nakamura)

The meeting also included a technical presentation from **Andy Creek** of the City of Atlanta, followed by CSC Subcommittee and Task Group report outs. Four subcommittee's and two task groups were selected to report including: Specialty Conference Subcommittee, Technical Practice Committee Liaison, CIPP Technical Review Task Group, I/I TPG—Revitalizing the PPVL, and the Webcast subcommittee. The meeting also included a fun Academic Challenge where our members minds were tested on their collection systems knowledge. Split into teams, **Team Yarr** (Susan Moisio, Greg Heath, Rob Vilee, Fernando Gonzales, Scott Helfrick, and Todd Williams), came out on top as this year's winner!

Here are some recaps of some of the report-outs and presentations:

City of Atlanta Smart H2O Platform—To kick off our meeting, Andy Creek, GIS Manager at the City of Atlanta's Department of Watershed Management, gave a great demonstration of the Smart H2O Platform which allows for real time monitoring of wet-weather assets throughout the Atlanta watershed.

The platform also acts as a departmental coordination tool to deploy teams more effectively during wet weather events. It is also a customer notification tool, allowing customers to see what projects are happening around.

With so many great functions the Smart H2O platform has been getting the City of Atlanta's Watershed Management Department a lot of great press, with comparisons like, "the platform shows an alert when a manhole might overflow, just like a fraud credit card alert!". By explaining these types of tools to customers, it helps show customers some of the innovative and helpful tools the city is using.

A big thanks to Andy and the City of Atlanta for sharing their new tools and experiences with us!

Specialty Conference Subcommittee—Subcommittee Chair **Joe Strauch** provided an update on how things went at CS 2017 in Omaha, NE and the progress of planning at CS 2018 in Virginia Beach, VA. Planning is going smoothly and we look forward to seeing many of you in Virginia Beach in April!

Technical Practice Committee Liaison—Past TPC Liaison **Susan Moisio**, talked to the group about the role of the TPC Liaison and some upcoming publications that involve the CSC. This included the updating of *MOP FD-12, Alternative Sewer Systems* and *MOP FD-7, Gravity Sanitary Sewer Design and Construction*.

I/I TPG-Revitalizing the PPVL—I/I TPG Chair **Srini Vallabhaneni**, gave a quick update on the status of the Private Property Virtual Library (PPVL) and how the updating process is going. The PPVL is great tool to help utilities as many embark on lateral rehabilitation programs.

Webcast Subcommittee—Subcommittee member **Chip Smith** provided an update on the 2018 CSC webcast schedule which includes 2 NASSCO webcasts (March 15, 2018 and October 25, 2018) and 2 CSC webcasts (May 10, 2018 and November 18, 2018). We hope you listen in!

We concluded the meeting with a discussion on "other topics" which included an update from the "Lord of Wipes" **Rob Vilee** and the status of international flushable wipes standards and an update from **John Fletcher** and the Baltimore Youth Mentorship Program ([Y H2O](#)) which was featured at Midyear 2016.

A big thank you to all that attended and we hope to see you in Virginia Beach!



CSC Members hearing from Andy Creek (Photo: B. Nakamura)

SAVE THE DATE—Collection Systems 2018
April 8-11, 2018 in Virginia Beach, VA

Sun, Sand, and Collection Systems! Reasons to attend CS 2018 in Virginia Beach!

Located in beautiful Virginia Beach, a coastal city in southeastern Virginia, this year's Collection Systems conference will feature an incomparable and enviable program of diverse technical presentations, mobile sessions, tours, pre-conference workshops and exhibits highlighting the continued advances in the industry.

Where the Chesapeake Bay meets the Atlantic Ocean, Collection Systems 2018 is perfectly located for this year's conference and your next adventure. With a 3-mile boardwalk that stretches along its beach-lined oceanfront and the bayside First Landing State Park that marks the 1607 arrival of the Jamestown colonists from England, the "Beach" will not only offer unique perspectives on collection systems topics, but will provide a great environment to network and discuss the latest hot topics with your peers.

Presentations will cover regional topics of interest, as well as lessons learned from the entire country by national experts in the field. Conference participants should expect to learn about state-of-the-art infrastructure planning, investigation and rehabilitation techniques.

So come see the latest innovations and equipment in the Exhibit Hall, network with old friends, and meet new contacts at **"Collections on the Coast"**.

For more information about the upcoming conference, [click here](#).



Collection Systems 2018

Collection Systems 2017 At a Glance

Sunday, May 21

8:30 am – 5:00 pm Workshop A—*Infiltration and Inflow Modeling for Collection System Utilities*

8:30 am – 5:00 pm Workshop B—*Findings from the Field—How to Evaluate Your I/I Reduction Program's Performance and Report the Results to Your Board*

6:00 pm – 10:00 pm Networking Reception—Sponsored by WVEA

Monday, May 22

8:30 am – 10:00 am Opening General Session
10:45 am – 11:50 am Mobile Session I (on exhibit floor)
10:45 am – 11:45 am Odor Control
1:30 pm – 4:45 pm Trenchless
1:30 pm – 4:45 pm System Analysis
1:30 pm – 4:45 pm Local I

Tuesday, May 23

8:30 am – 11:45 am Planning
8:30 am – 11:45 am SSO/CSO
8:30 am – 11:45 am Potpourri
8:30 am – 12:30 pm Tour A—Nansemond Treatment Plant
12:45 pm – 1:45 pm Mobile Session II
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Pump Station
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Lessons Learned
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Operation and Maintenance
3:45 pm – 4:45 pm **CS Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, May 24

8:30 am – 11:45 am Asset Management
8:30 am – 11:45 am Project Delivery
8:30 am – 11:45 am Local II
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Tour B—Bridge Street Pump Station Infrastructure



SAVE THE DATE—Water Week 2018 April 1-18, 2018 in Washington, DC National Water Policy Forum, Fly-In 2018

Hosted by WEF, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, and the Water Research Foundation, this event will be held in April in Washington, in conjunction with Water

Week 2018. This two-day event will offer attendees the opportunity to participate in the highest levels of policy advocacy before Congress and the Administration as well as to build professional connections with water professionals from across the nation. Join us in Washington to hear from high-level Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) staff, members of Congress and Congressional staff, advocacy professionals, utility experts, and more.

Visit the the [Water Week website](#) for more information and register for the Fly-in [here](#).

If you are a young professional looking to attend the Fly-In apply for the *2018 National Water Policy Fly-In YP Scholarship!* Scholarship deadline is **April 13, 2018**. For more information and to apply, [click here](#).

2018 WEF Awards Nominations are Due April 15th! *The 2018 WEF Awards nomination period has been extended!*

Were you aware that WEF's Honors and Awards Program provides the opportunity to recognize contributions made by both individuals and publications relating to the advancement of wastewater collection and transportation? Well, it does; after all, without pipes what else could be accomplished!

As a member of the Collection System profession, you are surely aware of an exceptional individual worthy of the [Collection Systems Award](#) or an outstanding publication deserving of the [Collection Systems Published Contributions Award](#).

Please take the time to nominate a professional or publication dedicated to the field of Collection Systems. Nominations may come from WEF Members, Committees, or Member Associations. The process is simple but must be completed by **April 15, 2018!**

Questions? Contact Kelsey Hurst at khurst@wef.org or 703-684-477

WEF News (continued)



SAVE THE DATE—CSC Webcast in May
Collection System Protection through an Effective Pretreatment Program
May 10, 2018 from 1:00-3:00 PM EST

- ♦ **Hamid "Ed" Abbasi, PE**, King County Industrial Waste Program
- ♦ **Mike Harmer**, WSSC Water
- ♦ **Ali Ling, PhD, PE**, Barr Engineering Co.
- ♦ **Erik White, PE** (moderator), UEG Consulting, LLC

A successful pre-treatment program helps to protect the integrity of the wastewater collection system, treatment plants and ultimately, receiving waters. This webcast will provide the viewer with an overview of prohibitions through pretreatment programs that help protect collection systems including minimizing concentrations of pollutants that could cause corrosion, fire or explosion, toxic vapor and gases and additional programmatic benefits to system owners and operators. The viewer will also benefit from a discussion on regulatory compliance information and ideas to streamline the pre-treatment permitting process.

Featured speakers include those from both the collection systems and industrial wastewater sectors, including:

For more information and to register for this webcast, [click here](#).



SAVE THE DATE—WEFTEC 2018
Registration Opens April 17

While it might feel like we just finished WEFTEC 2017, WEFTEC 2018 is right around the corner. This year WEFTEC will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana on **September 29-October 3** at the New Orleans Morial Convention Center.

Registration will be open on **April 17, 2018!** For more information and register, [click here](#).

Did You Know?

FAKE NEWS! Dear the Onion, Cleveland's elevated sewers are actually a thing



Yes, we're (@[NE Ohio Regional Sewer](#)) making a huge water-quality and infrastructure investment in Northeast Ohio which will indeed "serve the needs of local residents through the 21st century and beyond." And no, Onion, it's not an open-air elevated sewer system.

But what if I told you we've already been operating an elevated sewer system for decades?

The Onion's satire headline announced "[Cleveland Finishes Construction on New Elevated Sewer System](#)" this week, but there's a grain of truth in an otherwise for-entertainment-purposes-only story: Two elevated sewers have sat in plain view, resting high above the Cuyahoga River, daring back to the 1980s. The Big Creek Interceptor and Southwest Interceptor cross the river and river valley and connect to our Southerly treatment plant in Cuyahoga Heights.



(Photo courtesy Ebony Hood, @neorsd)

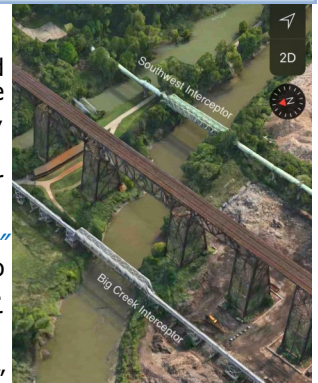
Granted, the Southwest and Big Creek systems are not the "open-air" innovations The Onion described, but their approach was indeed both innovative and cost-effective at the time. And the design still makes sense today.

These elevated lines are perched 40 feet above the Cuyahoga River, and about 25 feet above the shore, says Manager of Sewer System Maintenance & Operation Mike Zapior.

The Southwest Interceptor began construction in the 1980s, serving five communities around Southerly. The Big Creek Interceptor trestle dates back to the 1930s, and has been repaired several times over the years; it serves 17 communities.

Innovation and creativity take many forms. So while an open-air elevated sewer through the heart of Cleveland is not something on our drawing board, we're all for embracing humor to share little-known facts about infrastructure.

You do you, Onion. And if our #ThroneDrones idea takes off, we'll let you know.



Layout of Southwest and Big Creek Interceptors. (Photo: NE Ohio Regional Sewer)

This issue is brought to you by...

WEF CSC MA Outreach E-Newsletter Team

- ♦ Jimmy Stewart, Member Services Chair, Alabama WEA, Chesapeake WEA, GAWP
- ♦ Chip Smith, Member Services Vice Chair, North Carolina AWWA-WEA, South Carolina WEA, GAWP
- ♦ Stuart Bowns, Kentucky-Tennessee WEA
- ♦ David Brown, North Carolina AWWA-WEA, Virginia WEA
- ♦ Daniel Coleman, Chesapeake WEA, Virginia WEA
- ♦ Ted DeBoda, Chesapeake WEA
- ♦ Jerome Iltis, WEA of Texas
- ♦ Kara Keleher, New England WEA

- ♦ Roger Lehman, Pennsylvania WEA
- ♦ Christine Radke, Chesapeake WEA, Virginia WEA
- ♦ Michael Quamme, North Dakota WEA
- ♦ Heather Veal, GAWP

WEF CSC Leadership and Support

- ♦ Dianne Sumego, Chair, Ohio WEA
- ♦ Kevin Waldron, Chair-Elect, Kansas WEA, Missouri WEA
- ♦ Jim Hewitt, Vice Chair, Ohio WEA
- ♦ Luis Leon, Past Chair, California WEA
- ♦ Bri Nakamura, WEF Staff Liaison

Keep reading and keep sharing! The WEF CSC Member Association e-Newsletter is going **quarterly!**

Share any successes, milestones, events, initiatives, innovations, fun ideas, etc. with all in our collection systems community by emailing a short summary to Bri Nakamura at bnakamura@wef.org