



American Water Works
Association

VirginiaSection

March 26, 2025

University of Richmond
Jepson Alumni Center



Uncharted Waters: Meeting New Challenges Head-On

The Annual Drinking Water Quality and Research Seminar

Hosted by the VA AWWA
Drinking Water Quality and Research Committee

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

University of Richmond

Jepson Alumni Center

Speakers and Schedule
Subject to Change

6 Engineering CECs Approved
6 Water Operator CPEs Approved



8:00 am

Seminar Check In And Continental Breakfast

Networking Opportunity

8:30 am

Keynote Address

Presented By: *Dwayne Roadcap, Director*

Virginia Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water



8:45 am

Federal Policy Developments

Presented By: *Steve Via, Director of Federal Relations, AWWA*



9:15 am

Advanced Topics on Manganese Control in Surface Water Treatment Systems

Presented By: *Dr. William Knocke, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering - Virginia Tech*



10:00 am

Networking Break

10:15 am

Drinking Water in the Plasticene Era- What Utilities Need to Know About Microplastics

Presented By: *Brent Alspach, PE, BCEE, Director of Applied Research - Arcadis*



11:00 am

Lithium as the Next NPDWR - Don't Worry, Be Happy There Are Treatment Options!

Presented By: *Christine Owen, Associate Vice President - Hazen and Sawyer*



11:45 am

Networking Lunch

wifi access: [VisitUR](#)

University of Richmond
Jepson Alumni Center
442 Westhampton Way
Richmond, VA 23229



12:30 pm

Occurrence and Removal of Microplastics Across Drinking Water Treatment Facilities in North America



Presented By: *Chuck Balkenbusch, Process Engineer - Burns & McDonnell*

1:15 pm

Developing a Strategy for PFAS Management: Fairfax Water's Dynamic Approach



Presented By: *Gregory Prelewicz, Director Planning and Water Resources | Scott Dewhirst, Director Engineering and Construction - Fairfax Water*

2:00 pm

Networking Break

2:15 pm

Drinking Water PFAS Residuals Management



Presented by: *Pierre Kwan, Water Treatment Technical Director - HDR*

3:00 pm

Another Drinking Water Regulation? Preparing for Impacts from the 3rd M/DBP Rule Review



Presented by: *Christine Owen, Associate Vice President | MERIC Selbes, PE, PhD | Erik Rosenfeldt PE, PhD, Drinking Water Practice Leader - Hazen and Sawyer*

3:45 pm

Wrap-up, Open Discussion, and Adjourn



6 Engineering CECs Approved

6 Water Operator CPEs Approved

The Drinking Water Quality and Research Committee is the Virginia Section's technical committee dedicated to drinking water quality and treatment issues. The committee is focused on keeping its members and the Section up-to-date on the latest developments in drinking water research. In addition to a regular series of articles on water quality topics for the *Tap Into Virginia* magazine, the committee's primary activity is a yearly seminar in which distinguished researchers from around the state and around the nation are invited to speak on topics of current interest to Virginia's drinking water community.

For more information, please contact the committee leadership:

James Linton, Chair, jlinton@wrallp.com

Anna-Maria Miller, Vice Chair, amiller@nnva.gov

What were the highlights?

What would YOU do differently?

Please complete this 2 minute survey to help us plan for 2026!

<https://vaawwa.typeform.com/DWORSEM>



GET TO KNOW OUR SPEAKERS

Brent Alspach, PE, BCEE is a member of the AWWA Technical & Education Council (TEC), as well as the advisory/editorial boards for the publications AWWA Water Science and Opflow. He is the Principal Investigator on two Water Research Foundation projects focusing on microplastics and has testified before Congress on the subject of microplastics in drinking water. Mr. Alspach holds both Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Cornell University. Brent has 28-years of experience in the water treatment industry and serves as the Director of Applied Research at Arcadis.

Chuck Balkenbusch is a Process Engineer with Burns & McDonnell, working to provide water treatment solutions to both municipal and industrial clients. Chuck received his MASC in Civil Engineering from the University of Toronto in 2024 where he further developed analytical methods to analyze microplastics and examined their occurrence and removal across drinking water treatment facilities in Ontario. Chuck holds a bachelor's degree in Geology and Natural Resources and Environmental Science from Kansas State University and previously worked as a Geologist investigating and remediating contaminated sites, including those contaminated with PFAS.

Scott Dewhirst currently serves as Director, Engineering and Construction at Fairfax Water. Mr. Dewhirst has 30 years of experience in the drinking water field ranging from consulting engineering to leading major utilities at the Director level. Before joining Fairfax Water, Mr. Dewhirst served as the Superintendent of Tacoma Water responsible for oversight of all water utility operations. This follows a career at Newport News Waterworks, where he served as the Assistant and Interim Director. Mr. Dewhirst is a licensed Professional Engineer, and holds a Bachelors in Civil Engineering and a Masters in Environmental Engineering, both from Virginia Tech.

William R. Knocke, Ph.D., P.E. is in his 47th year as a faculty member at Virginia Tech, serving as a Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering. His research and teaching focus areas relate to physical-chemical processes for water treatment, with a specific emphasis on issues related to iron and manganese control. He has worked with consultants and water utility personnel for over 40 years on iron and manganese issues. Dr. Knocke has consulted with water utilities ranging in size from two billion gallons of water produced per day to ones serving small rural communities. He has been an AWWA member for over 45 years, and is a Registered Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Christine Owen is an Associate Vice President at Hazen and Sawyer. Chris has 34 years of experience in the water industry. She is an Associate VP and Director of Water and Reuse Innovations for Hazen and Sawyer. She is active in regulatory issues at the state and federal levels, having served on the USEPA Science Advisory Board for Drinking Water, the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology and as a technical advisor to the National Drinking Water Advisory Council for upcoming rule development. She is the past Chair of the AWWA Water Science and Research Board of Trustees, a past president of the American Membrane Technology Association and a current Trustee for WaterReuse Florida.

Pierre Kwan is HDR's Water Treatment Technical Director and has 28 years of professional experience in helping water systems across the world in the areas of drinking water treatment and water quality compliance. He has his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from The Ohio State University and his master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Washington. His work has been published multiple times in the Journal AWWA, Environment Science and Technology, and other esteemed drinking water journals. He is based in Seattle, Washington.

Gregory Prelewicz serves as the Director for Planning and Water Resources at Fairfax Water. He has 27 years of experience in various water resources, environmental, and civil engineering areas and has been with Fairfax Water since 2003 serving in various roles. Mr. Prelewicz has a Bachelors in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech and a Masters in Civil and Infrastructure Engineering from George Mason University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and a certified Envision Sustainability Professional and has worked in consulting.

Dwayne Roadcap, REHS, LPSS, AOSE is the Director of the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Office of Drinking Water. Mr. Roadcap has over 20 years of experience with environmental programs in Virginia, and previously served multiple roles with the Office of Environmental Health Services.

Erik Rosenfeldt, PE, PhD is Hazen's Drinking Water Practice Leader and a senior member of the Firm's drinking water process and applied research groups. His work has focused on drinking water and reuse technology, evaluating, implementing, and optimizing conventional and advanced treatment processes for a variety of water quality concerns, including DBPs, algal toxins and Taste and Odor, and emerging contaminants like PFAS.

Meric Selbes, PE, Phd received his PhD in Environmental Engineering in 2014 with a focus on disinfection and disinfection by-product formation. His areas of expertise includes oxidation/disinfection systems, DBPs formation and control. He has co-authored more than 25 peer-reviewed publications about DBPs. He is currently working at Hazen and Sawyer on drinking water projects in the DC, Maryland and Virginia area.

Steve Via is the Director of Federal Relations for the American Water Works Association (AWWA) working in their Washington, D.C. office. Mr. Via's primary responsibilities are twofold: working with the EPA and other federal agencies on the development of policy and regulations that affect the water sector, and communicating the basis and substance of federal policy and regulations to the water sector.