VWEA | VA AWWA Utility Management Committee

2026 Virginia Utility Management Seminar:
Money, Projects, and People

WHAT TO EXPECT

This program provides a focused look at funding, project delivery, disaster recovery, and workforce development in Virginia's water sector. Experts will share practical guidance on accessing infrastructure financing, understanding credit readiness, and navigating FEMA and insurance processes after major events. The program also highlights real-world experiences with collaborative delivery and proven approaches for building and sustaining skilled utility talent pipelines.

REGISTRATION

Members $100 | $115 *after January 30th*

Non-Members $120 | $135 *after January 30th*

DATE & TIME

Thursday, February 19th

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM ET

LOCATION

The Place at Innsbrook

4036-C Cox Rd, Glen Allen, VA 23060

HOTELS NEARBY

The Hyatt Place Richmond/Innsbrook

4100 Cox Rd, Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

Hilton Garden Inn Richmond Innsbrook

4050 Cox Rd, Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

EDUCATION

Receive up to 5 Water & Wastewater CPEs

REGISTER ONLINE

https://www.vwea.org/event/UMSeminar2026

QUESTIONS?

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American Water Works Association VirginiaSection

VWEA EST. 1947 Virginia Water Environment Association

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	**Continental Breakfast & Networking**
8:30 AM - 8:45 AM	Opening Remarks

SESSION 1: CAPITAL FINANCING		SPEAKER(S)
8:45 - 9:10 AM	Virginia Resources Authority (VRA) Loans: Programs, Benefits, and the Application Process	Peter D'Alema, *VRA*
9:10 - 9:35 AM	Demystifying the Complex World of Credit Markets: Crucial Insights into How Municipal Credit Ratings are Calculated	Enrique Cavazos, *Moody's*
9:35 - 10:00 AM	The Impacts of Hurricane Helene: Operational and Financial Challenges, Navigating Insurance Claims, and the FEMA Assistance Process	Ryan Hendrix, *Pepper's Ferry*
10:00 - 10:15 AM	Panel Discussion	Peter D'Alema, *VRA* Enrique Cavazos, *Moody's* Ryan Hendrix, *Pepper's Ferry*
10:15 - 10:30 AM	**Morning Break**	

SESSION 2: COLLABORATIVE DELIVERY		SPEAKER(S)
10:30 - 11:30 AM	Overcoming the Myths of Collaborative Delivery: CM at Risk, Design-Build, and Public-Private Partnerships	Linnell Stanhope, *Crowder* Bruce Husselbee, *HRSD*
11:30 - 12:30 PM	First-Time Owner's Experiences with Collaborative Delivery: Experiences, Challenges, and Lessons Learned	Savita Schlesinger, *Loudoun Water* Rachel Carlson, *Prince William Water* Rick Martinec, *City of Virginia Beach* Irene "Tesha" Okioga, *Western Virginia Water Authority*
12:30 - 1:30 PM	**Lunch**	

SESSION 3: TBD		SPEAKER(S)
1:30 - 2:15 PM	TBD	TBD, City of Richmond DPU
2:15 - 2:30 PM	**Afternoon Break**	

SESSION 4: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT		SPEAKER(S)
2:30 - 3:00 PM	Building Skilled Trade Pipelines: Strategies for Recruitment, Retention, and Long-Term Success	Christina Perez, *HRSD*
3:00 - 3:30 PM	Strengthening the Talent Pipeline in the Utility Sector: How Community Colleges and Employers Can Work Together	Kim Phillips, *Virginia Peninsula Community College* Becky Dieffenbach, *Newport News Waterworks*
3:30 - 4:00 PM	Talent as Infrastructure: Engineering the Utility Workforce of Tomorrow	Thom Lipinski, *Loudoun Water*

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