VIRGINIA

SECTION • AWWA

March 24, 2026

The Place at Innsbrook



Smart Systems, Safe Waters:
Innovations at the Crossroads of Tech and Sustainability

Hosted by the VA AWWA
Drinking Water Quality and Research Committee

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 24, 2026
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
The Place at Innsbrook
4036-C Cox Road, Glen Allen VA 23060

Hazen 75 YEARS

Thank you to our event sponsor!

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 — **AI-Ready Infrastructure: The Foundation Layer Utilities Need**
Presented By: *Dr. John Armin*
Utilyst Inc.

10:00 am — **Networking Break**

10:15 am — **The Urgency of Water: Identifying the Path to Cyber Resilience for the Water Sector**
Presented By: *Andy Krapf, Director of Operations Technology*
Loudoun Water

11:00 am — **Data Centers: Trends and Innovation for Water Use**
Presented By: *Lauren Barbir, Associate Vice President & Global Business Development Director*
HDR Tech, Media, & Telecom (TMT)

11:45 am — **Networking Lunch**

wifi access:

VIP@Place123

CAPITAL ALE · HOUSE

Please join us for a free VA AWWA networking event immediately following the seminar!

12:30 pm **After the GAC: What Happens to PFAS Once It Leaves Your Plant**

Presented By: *Noelle DeStefano*
National PFAS Sector Lead, Metiri Group

1:00 pm **PFAS and DBPs: Hidden Parallels and Missed Co-benefits**

Presented By: *Kirin E. Furst, PhD.*
Co-Director, Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory

1:30 pm **Water Modeling**

Presented By: *Chris Basford, Senior Engineer*
Newport News Waterworks

2:00 pm **Networking Break**

2:15 pm **Fluoride in Drinking Water Treatment: A History of Practices and Perception**

Presented By: *John Moore, Director of Water, RK&K and Isabell Stitt-Fredericks, Senior Program Manager of Water, Virginia Health Catalyst Resources Water Planner*

3:00 pm **Project 108: Tools and Recommendations for Water Systems to Prepare for Upcoming Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (MDBPR) Change**

Presented by: *Vishakha Kaushik, Arcadis*

3:45 pm **Wrap-up, Open Discussion, and Adjourn**

6 Engineering CECs Approved
6 Water Operator CPEs Approved

Your Hosts

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:

Anna-Maria Miller, Chair: amiller@nnva.gov
Baljit Sidhu, Vice Chair: bsidhu@hazenandsawyer.com

Compliments, Critiques, Comments?

Please complete this 2 minute survey to help us plan for 2027

https://vaawwa.typeform.com/DWQRSEM

GET TO KNOW OUR SPEAKERS

Dr. John Armin is Founder & CEO of Utilyst Inc., developing AI-native infrastructure intelligence platforms for water utilities. He holds a PhD in Environmental Engineering, MSc in Computer Science, and is a licensed Professional Engineer with 16+ years of water infrastructure experience. John currently serves as Adjunct Assistant Professor at UNC Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Global Public Health, where he researches AI applications in environmental systems. He is actively involved in AWWA subcommittees on cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and Information Management and Technology Research (IMTR).

Lauren Barbir is Associate Vice President and Global Business Development Director for HDR's Tech, Media, & Telecom (TMT) Sector. She leads data center client development across HDR's entire portfolio of engineering, architecture, and environmental design and consulting services. With over 20 years of industry experience, Lauren's career has covered the project development cycle from site selection/due diligence, design/construction, and facility operations. She also provides executive oversight of water/wastewater project development and delivery for tech clients. Lauren holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from University of Notre Dame and a Masters of Business Administration from Pennsylvania State University.

Chris Basford is a Senior Engineer with Newport News Waterworks and licensed professional engineer in Virginia. He has 41 years of experience in performing hydraulic and water quality analyses, designing and building data structures to support integration of modeling with business data, and designing and writing applications to merge modeling results with business applications. Over his career as a utility engineer, he is often hampered by the gap that exists between business data and modeling. He focuses on bridging this gap by creating data structures and applications to merge real time data that directly supports business needs.

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Noelle DeStefano is the National PFAS Sector Lead at Metiri Group, supporting PFAS testing and technical strategy across a multi-lab network. Her work focuses on translating complex PFAS data into clear, defensible decisions for utilities, consultants, and industrial clients, with an emphasis on practical sampling guidance, method selection, and fit-for-purpose reporting. She holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Analytical Chemistry from Duke University and a B.S. in Chemical Oceanography from Florida Institute of Technology.

Kirin Emlet Furst is an Associate Professor at Virginia Tech in the Charles E. Via Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Co-Director of the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory. Furst's areas of expertise are physicochemical treatment processes, advanced treatment for potable reuse, and fate and transport of organic contaminants of emerging concern. Furst's research lab, the Water Systems Chemistry Engineering Lab (Water SyCEL), conducts research across multiple domains of water quality engineering with the goal of achieving equitable access to safe drinking water. Current projects focus on simultaneous control of pathogens, DBPs, and PFAS in conventional and potable reuse systems, impacts of extreme weather on water and sanitation infrastructure, and PFAS source fingerprinting and attribution in One Water systems. Furst received the NSF CAREER award in 2024 and holds a PhD and MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Stanford University and a BA in Liberal Arts from Sarah Lawrence College.

Vishakha Kaushik is a Senior Engineer at Arcadis with a decade of professional experience and is supporting drinking water treatment projects across North America. Her experience in the industry has been focused on maintaining drinking water quality in the distribution system including working on corrosion control and disinfection strategies, helping utilities become compliant with the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), and writing nitrification action plans. Vishakha is currently serving as the Chair of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Distribution System Water Quality committee. She is also a chapter author on AWWA Manual M58 - Internal Corrosion Control in Water Distribution Systems, AWWA Manual M68 – Water Quality in Distribution Systems; and serves as a chapter lead for AWWA Manual M20 – Water Chlorination/Chloramination Practices manual.

Andrew Krapf served for 10 years in the US Navy managing complex electronic systems and then spent more than 30 years providing automated systems support and leadership for newspapers, manufacturing, material handling, and public utility companies. As part of the Water Sector, Andrew has played a pivotal role in industrial control system integration, building automation, Automated Meter Infrastructure, and deploying OT cybersecurity technologies. Andrew is the current Director of Operations Technology at Loudoun Water. He regularly participates in cyber-related discussions with CISA and ODNI, collaborates with other utilities concerning OT cybersecurity efforts, and is the co-chair of the Water-ISAC Advisory Committee on Cybersecurity.

John Moore is Director of Drinking Water at RK&K and has over 37 years of engineering experience related to public drinking water systems. He is a licensed professional engineer in multiple states including Maryland. He has been an active member of CSAWWA for most of his career having served on numerous committees and terms as Section Director and Section Chair.

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.

Isabelle Stitt-Fredericks is the Senior Program Manager of Water at Virginia Health Catalyst, where they lead initiatives focused on water equity and access to community water fluoridation. They analyze and synthesize data to inform advocacy, support public health campaigns, and collaborate with stakeholders to protect and expand access to safe, fluoridated drinking water. With a background in public health and social services, Isabelle brings expertise in program evaluation, systems change, and community engagement. They hold a Bachelor's in Sociomedical Sciences from SUNY Geneseo and are committed to advancing health equity through evidence-based, community-centered strategies.

Steve Via is Director of Federal Relations for the American Water Works Association (AWWA) working in AWWA's Washington, D.C. office. Mr. Via's primary responsibilities are two-fold: 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.