




WATER SUPPLY ASSOCIATION - SPEAKERS PROGRAM - PRELIMINARY - 2024 AGM AND CONFERENCE - SUN PEAKS RESORT

Thurs., Oct. 24, 2025		Topic	Speaker	Organization	
10:00 - 11:30		Tour of Sun Peaks Wastewater Treatment Plant (tentative, awaiting confirmation)		Resort Municipality of Sun Peaks	
10:00 - 11:45		Dam Safety Courses (two courses) Course No. 1 - Dam Surveillance and Inspection	Two courses 1.5 hrs each Nathan Valsangkar	Northwest Hydraulics Cons	<p>Nathan Valsangkar is a hydrotechnical engineer at Northwest Hydraulic Consultants. He has eight years of experience in BC, Ontario, and internationally, focusing on dam safety, river engineering, and transportation crossings. Nathan employs a multidisciplinary approach to problem-solving, leveraging his practical construction experience to deliver robust solutions. In dam safety, he has conducted annual inspections, led inflow hydrology and dam break studies, designed and supervised spillway and outlet works upgrades, designed seepage monitoring instrumentation, participated in Dam Safety Reviews, and led three dam decommissioning projects.</p> 
12:00-1:00 PM		LUNCH			
1:00 pm - 2:45		Course No. 2 - Dam Safety Regulations and consequence classes	Nathan Valsangkar	Northwest Hydraulics Cons	See above for Nathan
1:30:00 PM (Tenative)		Rising Costs for Water Projects - Why and What We Can Do About It?	Matt Smith, P.Eng.	Urban Systems Ltd.	<p>Matt is an environmental engineer with experience in municipal, first nations, land development and mining settings, with an emphasis on water and wastewater treatment, hydraulics, contract administration and project delivery. He joined Urban Systems in 2008 and became a partner in 2014. Before joining Urban Systems Matt worked for ten years in forestry in central and northwest BC, doing work in forest protection, ecosystem mapping, site productivity research and resource inventory. Matt holds degrees in Biotechnology from the University of Abertay Dundee, and in Environmental Engineering from UBC and UNBC.</p> <p>The cost of water delivery projects in BC appears to have increased rapidly in the last 5 years. This presentation will explore if this statement is true, how much have costs increased and which components of project cost have increased. We will look at some potential reasons for cost increases, and some potential ways to mitigate project costs through collaborative project delivery.</p>
2:00 PM		Annual General Meeting, Chairs Report, Presentation of Financial, Election	Chair Bob Hrasko	WSABC	
3:30 - 6:30 PM		Trade Show - 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Hosts: Kevin Huey / Patti Meger, WSABC	Suppliers Host with draw prizes	Trade show with suppliers booths of new product. Beverages, lively atmosphere in a packed room is normal business here
7:00:00 PM Start		Banquet, Awards	Host - Bruce Wilson	WSABC	
Fri., Oct 25, 2025		TOPIC	Speaker / Facilitator	Organization	
8:15		Registration and Coffee			
8:30		Welcome - WSABC Chair	Bob Hrasko	WSABC	
8:35		Unprecedented 2023 Drought Impacts on the City of Kamloops	Deven Matkowski, P.Eng. Engineering Manager	City of Kamloops	<p>Deven is a Professional Civil Engineer working in local government with a keen interest in organization excellence, strategic planning and municipal infrastructure stewardship. He has practiced as a professional for over 20 years with experience in both consulting and local government. He was born and raised in the prairie provinces and moved to BC in 2001. He joined the City of Kamloops in 2006 and is currently the Engineering Manager, overseeing infrastructure planning for that community of approximately 100,000 people. Deven worked closely with other members of the City on the community's response to drought in 2023.</p> <p>Deven will be sharing how one Interior BC community experienced the 2023 drought. His presentation explores how past experiences completely unrelated to drought influenced the City's response to drought in 2023. Join this session to explore the emergencies the drought created for the City of Kamloops and to hear about the silver lining of challenging times.</p>
9:05		What We've Learned Stepping into the World of Drought Communications	Nicole Pyett, Water Resources Section Head	Ministry of Water Land and Resources Stewardship	<p>Nicole Pyett is a professional hydrogeologist currently leading the Thompson Okanagan Region's Water Resources team. The Water Resources team was established in 2023 to provide science and science communication support related to drought response and other water priorities. The team includes subject matter experts in water resource management, water licensing, aquatic biology, and groundwater science.</p> <p>After experiencing communication challenges during the 2023 drought response, Provincial water staff working in water authorizations and water science embarked on an effort to encourage two-way communication with water users in advance of the potential 2024 drought season. This talk outlines some of the tested approaches, learnings, and potential next steps</p>
9:35		Water Metering and AMI Implementation	Ed Hoppe, Water Quality & Customer Care Manager	City of Kelowna	<p>Ed has a long history of work in the environmental monitoring and testing field and has worked with consultants, municipalities, regional districts, health authorities, and private customers to provide solid water quality data. As a professional chemist, he is committed to providing great chemistry and customer service experiences for the residents of the City of Kelowna over the past 7 years. His department includes customer service, water conservation, lab services, cross connection control, water metering, and meter reading for Utility billing. His focus is on developing strong relationships with customers through communication and education to help manage and understand water use, reduce unnecessary water loss, and the benefits of choosing a water conscious lifestyle.</p> <p>The benefits of water metering now go beyond just collecting meter reads for water cost recovery. Technology today allows for water meters to be more accurate, more responsive, and provide abundantly more data for both the homeowner and the Utility to better manage water supply.</p>
10:05		Networking Break (25 minutes)			
10:30		Post-Fire Assessment tools - Infrastructure impacts	Donovan Klassen	Carollo Engineers	
11:00		Understanding Characteristics that Contribute to Lower Creek Hydrology	Sandra Schira, Water Science Specialist	Okanagan Basin Water Board	<p>Sandra has a Master of Science from the Universität Bayreuth, where she studied drought in Germany from the Roman Empire to the Industrial Revolution using tree-ring data. At the OBWB, she developed a tool that lets people view changes in climate across the Okanagan over the last 100 years. In the summer, she can be found hiking and running, and in the winter, playing board games.</p>
11:30		Ministry of Forests Update & Forest Replant Opportunities	Ray Crampton	Ministry of Forests	
12:00		Lunch			
1:00		Looking Back at Calgary's 1950mm (78") PCCP Feeder Main Failure	Justin Hebner	Pure Technologies - Xylem	<p>Justin has worked in the water industry for fifteen years, including the last seven years with Pure Technologies, a Xylem brand. He has partnered with many utilities across Canada on successful pipeline inspection and condition assessment projects, working with them from initiation to closing, utilizing a collection of acoustic, electromagnetic and ultrasonic technologies.</p> <p>The City of Calgary is a leader in critical water main condition assessment, establishing their program in 2004. On June 5, 2024, Calgary experienced a catastrophic break on the 1950mm (78") AWWA C301 PCCP Bears paw South Feeder Main – the largest feeder main in Calgary's network. The Feeder Main provides water to 60% of the population and over 1.3 million customers were affected by the break on and off for months. Calgary had previously experienced other PCCP failures, but not of this magnitude. With winter in the rear-view mirror and entering the prime weather months, Calgarians access to steady water came to a halt. The City had a fight on its hands, trying to isolate a major PCCP failure, assess the damage and plan a probable complex repair. Once the pipeline was isolated and the failure exposed, the City investigated the root cause. Forensic analysis was conducted on various pipe materials to determine potential failure mechanisms. The City also wanted to ensure that no other areas along the 11km (6.8mi) long pipeline were at risk of imminent failure after the repair and re-pressurization. Plans were well underway for a repair and emergency inspection mobilizations were initiated on the isolated section (4.5km/2.8mi). Electromagnetic inspections were conducted to assess the condition of the remainder of the Feeder Main, detecting multiple additional areas which required repair. Along with conducting additional repairs, an acoustic fiber optic monitoring system was installed to track the health of this critical main, to ensure that Calgary can successfully manage the Bears paw South Feeder Main into the future.</p>
1:45		Communications Using VOYENT ALERT	Jeremy Storvold	District of Summerland	<p>Jeremy Storvold is the Director of Utilities with the District of Summerland. He started his career in water systems as the manager responsible for Dam Safety for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation hydro dams. Jeremy has been a Director with the Water Supply Association for 2 years and is a bee keeper, fire fighter, scout leader, Canadian forces veteran, husband and father of two.</p> <p>VoyentAlert is a communication platform designed for Municipalities. It can be used as an emergency or informational communication tool. Customers install the app on their phone and receive messages by location. This presentation is a short overview of the system.</p>
2:00		Break (15 minutes)			
2:15		Interior Health - Drinking Water Program Update	J. Ivor Norlin, Manager, Drinking Water Systems Program	Interior Health	<p>Ivor has been with Interior Health since 2004 and he has been the IH Drinking Water Systems program manager since 2016. Ivor is a professional biologist an Environmental Health officer and holds two bachelor degrees and a masters degree in environmental and health studies. Born and raised in Armstrong, Ivor lives in the traditional and unceded territory fo teh Secwempec (She-whep-mec) peoples in Salmon Arm.</p> <p>Presentation to the water utilities on the Interior Health Drinking Water program activities and priorities.</p>
2:30		Small Diameter Watermain Replacement	Nick Van Dalen, Engineering Technician	District of Lake Country	<p>Nick Van Dalen is an Engineering Technician at the District of Lake Country, responsible for management of water and sewer capital projects, assisting in operational optimization, and overseeing the Districts water metering program. Nick has worked with the District for 3 years and was previously a water operator for the Township of Oro-Medonte, Ontario. Nick received his diploma in Environmental Technology at Georgian College and a degree in Environmental Sciences at the University of Waterloo.</p> <p>The Okanagan Center watermain project will be presented, focusing on municipal asset management and the District of Lake Country's initiative to replace old small diameter watermain. This project follows previous work, such as the Nighthawk and Hare Road watermain upgrades, PRV installation, and distribution network looping. Key aspects include the importance of replacing aging infrastructure, addressing leaks and encroachments, and ensuring fire protection improvements, highlighted by successful fire flow testing and lessons from the Lake Country wildfire.</p>
3:00		Wrap Up	Bob Hrasko	Chair WSABC	