

# Formulas for **SUCCESS**

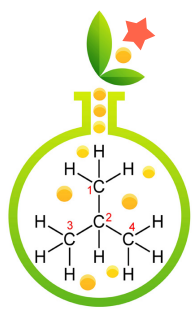
**2024**

**AEA  
Spring Utility  
Management  
Conference**



**Tuesday, March 12 &  
Wednesday, March 13, 2024  
Caesars • Atlantic City, N.J.**

# 2024 AEA SPRING UTILITY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE



## Formulas for **SUCCESS**

Tuesday, March 12 &  
Wednesday, March 13, 2024  
Caesars • Atlantic City, N.J.

TCHs: Tues – 5 w/4ww | Wed – 1 w/ww

### Tuesday, March 12

9:45 a.m. | Welcome | Palladium C



*Peggy Gallos, AEA Executive Director*  
*Marc Pfeiffer, Conference Moderator,*  
*Rutgers University*

10:00 a.m. | DEP | Amendments to the Licensed Operators Rules



*Allison Campbell,*

*Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)*

The presenter will discuss the anticipated rulemaking to amend N.J.A.C. 7:10A the licensed operator rules. NJDEP staff will be in attendance during presentation to answer Q&A questions as needed.

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | DEP | Office Hours | Jupiter Room

Allison Campbell, Thomas Brinckman, and Ryan Knapick from DEP will host individual office hours with those who requested a time slot. The purpose of the office hours will be to gather individual feedback on the anticipated rulemaking to amend the licensed operator rules.

### How to Sign-up

Pre-registered attendees - email Karen ([karen@aeanj.org](mailto:karen@aeanj.org)) with the subject “DEP office hours” to reserve a spot. Times will be assigned every 15 minutes in the order email received.

Day of registrants - a sign-up sheet will be available at the AEA registration desk.

**11:00 a.m. | Exhibits | Palladium B**

**11:00 a.m. | Palladium B | Round Table**

*Marc Pfeiffer, Rutgers University*

*Focus Group*

As part of his ongoing research at Rutgers into government technology issues, our moderator Marc Pfeiffer is starting to look at the services and issues related to government agencies that use third-party contractors as their network or computer system administrators. He'd like to informally talk to members who use these types of services to get a sense of how the contracts work and what services these contractors provide, and concerns members have about them.

To that end, during lunch on Tuesday, members who would like to help will find Marc at a reserved table in Palladium B where you are welcome to join him in the not for attribution discussion.

**11:30 a.m. | Lunch | Palladium B**

**12:30 p.m. | Welcome | Palladium C**

*Marc Pfeiffer,*

*Conference Moderator, Rutgers University*

**12:45 p.m. | Pilot Project: Microplastic Removal Demonstration at the ACUA Wastewater Facility**



*Yidian Liu, PolyGone Systems*

The speaker will present how PolyGone Systems is collaborating on a joint pilot project with the Atlantic County Utilities Authority to construct a microplastic removal system at ACUA's wastewater treatment facility. Supported by NOAA and NJEDA, this project is scheduled to become operational in 2024 with the aim of capturing "invisible" microplastic pollutants before they reach the ocean.



### 1:45 p.m. | Cutting Chemical Costs



*Ken Carola, Keuhne Company*

*Sarah Onofrio, Keuhne Company*

The presenters will discuss how sodium hypochlorite (bleach for disinfection) has nearly doubled with recent bids and is a product that members of our association use dramatically in both the water and waste water sectors. Recently, OCUA and ACUA are piloting a 20% concentration vs the usual 15% concentration and had

favorable findings to date.

### 2:30 p.m. | Powerful Partners for Fighting Cyber Threats



*Chris Kay, CISA*

*Andy Smith, US Department of Homeland Security*

The speakers will provide a debrief on threat assessments/vulnerabilities and partnering with the FBI and other agencies to deliver joint-partnership anti-terrorism training for water/wastewater facilities.

### 3:45 p.m. | Authorities and Shared Services: Perfect Together?



*Eileen Brennen, DCA*

*Brian Brach,  
Manasquan River  
RSA*

*Bob Snyder,  
Plainfield Area RSA*

*Matt DeNafo,  
Atlantic County UA*

The moderator will give an overview on the value of shared services and guide the speakers in an interactive dialogue on the range of services provided, what created the environment, lessons learned and funding opportunities. The audience will be asked to participate by sharing their experience.

## 5:00 p.m. | Networking Reception | Palladium B

Join your colleagues at the networking reception.



## Wednesday, March 13

### 7:30 a.m. | Continental Breakfast | Palladium B

### 9:00 a.m. | Welcome | Palladium C



Marc Pfeiffer,  
Rutgers University

### 9:15 a.m. | SWQS for PFAS Coming Very Soon: How Surface Water Standards are Going to be Implemented in NJPDES Permits



*Susan Rosenwinkel, DEP*

NJDEP will soon be issuing surface water quality standards for PFAS compounds. When will the standards be proposed? How low will they be? What will that mean to NJPDES permit holders? Will effluent limits be set? What should permittees do to prepare? These and other questions will be answered in this presentation.

### 10:00 a.m. | Building Consensus to Establish a Stormwater Utility



*Mayor Andrew Nowick, Lambertville*

Following the devastation of Hurricane Ida and a reassignment to New Jersey's MS4TierA permit, Lambertville Mayor Andrew Nowick knew the time had come to improve the City's stormwater management system. Like many New Jersey municipalities that face both the increased threat



of climate related flooding and stricter state regulations, Lambertville is exploring all options to upgrade its aged system and to maintain it properly. Mayor Nowick will discuss his City's efforts to establish a stormwater utility under a recently enacted state statute to help meet those expanding needs.

### 11:00 a.m. | Non-Traditional Hiring Practices



*Christine Ballard, CDM Smith*

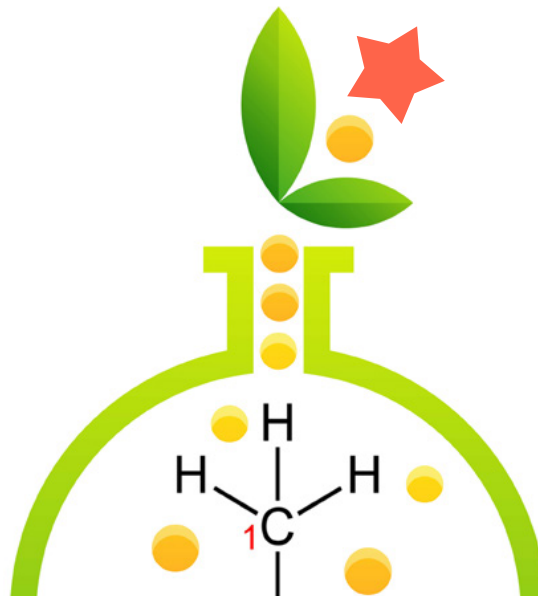
*Megan Atkinson, Actalent*

In a market where winning the war on talent is so important, the speakers from CDM Smith and Actalent will each describe some unique methods each of their firms utilize for hiring and staffing. The speakers will discuss programs aimed at specific demographics to reach hiring goals and discuss market trends in the industry.

### 12:00 p.m. | Adjourn

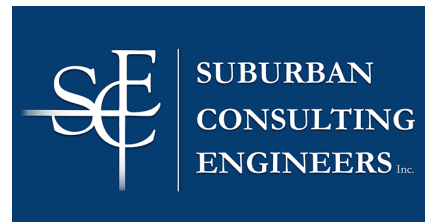
### 12:15 p.m. | Recognition Luncheon

Wave Award & EPDA certificate presentations





## Thank You to Our Exhibitors for Supporting the Utility Management Conference



## About the Guest Moderator

**Marc Pfeiffer** left a 37-year career in New Jersey local government administration in 2012. He served as a municipal administrator in several municipalities, and 26 years of service in the State's local government oversight agency, the Division of Local Government Services. At DLGS he served as Deputy Director for 14 years, and periodically as Acting Director.

He eventually landed at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University where he serves as Assistant Director of the Bloustein Local Government Research Center.

Marc has broad experience in many areas of local government policy and administration, including specific expertise in areas such as finance and property taxation, public procurement, shared services and consolidation, technology management, energy, labor relations, and general government administration. He also has deep experience in the legislative process and as a regulatory officer. He is currently engaged in research concerning the use of technology in local government.

At Bloustein Local, he supports faculty with his background in NJ government, teaches "Tech in the City" for undergraduates, is the Principal Investigator on several contracts with state government, helps the state's media understand government policies and provides occasional commentary on issues of the day. Marc makes his extensive government experience available as a guest lecturer and other collaborative efforts. He also supports the State Civil Service Commission and the Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration with the State's Certified Public Manager Program in curriculum development and instruction.

## About the Presenters

**Megan Atkinson** currently serves as divisional practice lead energy services with Actalent located in Edison New Jersey. She has more than 8 years in the architecture, engineering and construction industry for talent solutions and staffing. She has recently transitioned to run the company's energy division for their NY, NJ and CT markets providing talent solutions for the TD&P industry. She lives in Brick, NJ and has a 1year old puppy named Penny.

**Christine Ballard** is an Associate at CDM Smith and currently services as CDM Smith's Edison, New Jersey office leader. She is a licensed professional Engineer with a bachelor's in mechanical engineering from Clemson University and Masters of Engineering Management and Masters of Systems Engineering from Steven's Institute of Technology. She has over twenty years of experience working

with water and wastewater utilities across New Jersey and is a past Board Member of AEA.

**Brian Brach** currently serves as Executive Director for the Manasquan River Regional Sewerage Authority and has over 16-years of experience in the water resources industry. Leading the day-to-day operation of a regional sewerage authority, in combination with a decade's worth of consulting engineering experience, has provided Mr. Brach with valuable exposure to all facets of water utility operations and administration. Mr. Brach is a licensed Professional Engineer (NJ PE), Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) and Certified Municipal Engineer (CME). Mr. Brach leverages his passion for the industry to address challenges in an efficient and innovative manner. Mr. Brach is a member of AEA's executive committee and serves as first vice president.

*Continues on next page*



## About the Presenters

**Eileen Brennen** is presently assigned as a Municipal Technical Advisor with the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services, Local Assistance Bureau.

As a Municipal Technical Advisor, Eileen oversees the Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) County Coordinator Fellowship Program. She provides guidance on complex shared service arrangements and acts as a Transitional Aid Monitor for fiscally distressed municipalities.

As a Municipal Technical Advisor involved with complex shared service arrangements, Eileen facilitated the consolidation of the South Orange and Maplewood Fire Departments that successfully implemented the South Essex Fire Department and the state's first shared services consolidation of a county run municipal court operations with the implementation of the Central Municipal Court of Atlantic County.

**Allison Campbell** is an Environmental Specialist in the Division of Water Enforcement. She started her career at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) in 2017, after earning her undergraduate degree from Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA and a Master of Environmental Management from Duke University.

**Ken Carola** is an Account Manager from Kuehne Company which is a chlor alkali manufacturer with 3 strategic locations supplying water treatment products across the Northeast. Ken has over 43 years specialized in chlor alkali. Ken began his career selling repackaged chlorine in cylinders and ton containers and was involved in the transition to sodium hypochlorite from elemental chlorine as the preferred method of chlorination.

**Matthew DeNafo** is President of the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA). He leads a team of more than 300 employees in providing environmentally and economically responsible waste management services across ACUA's Wastewater and Solid Waste Divisions.

DeNafo graduated from the Rowan University College of Engineering with a degree in Civil & Environmental Engineering in 2006 and earned a master's in environmental engineering from Rowan in 2007. He also holds a master's in business administration from Rutgers University, which he completed in 2018. He is a New Jersey Licensed Professional Engineer and a Certified Municipal Engineer.

**Christopher Kay** is New Jersey's Cybersecurity State Coordinator for the Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. He recently retired as a Captain from the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) with over 22 years of experience in assignments involving personal, cyber, and physical risk management. Chris is an Army veteran and earned a master's degree from the Eastman School of Music, a bachelor's degree from William Paterson University, and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. He maintains Board Certifications from ISC2 as a Certified Information System Security Professional (CISSP) and ASIS International as a Certified Protection Professional (CPP). He also holds a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Professional Designation (CPD).

**Yidian Liu** is Co-Founder and Chief Operations Officer (COO) of PolyGone. She holds a bachelor's in architecture from Syracuse University and a master's in architecture from Princeton University. Yidian has extensive experience designing for internationally renowned design and

*Continues on next page*

## About the Presenters

landscaping companies including Aedas, Vector Architects, and Lola Landscape Design. Her research and design focus on the development of novel sustainable infrastructure. Her Princeton architectural research centered on waste recycling facilities, panarchies of waste management, and aquatic plastic infrastructural systems.

**Andrew Nowick** is native of Massachusetts and moved to Lambertville with his husband and three sons in 2011. He ran a successful campaign for mayor in 2021 and began his term in January 2022, four months after the remnants of hurricane Ida swept through Lambertville, causing millions of dollars in damages and permanently dislocating scores of families. His primary focus as mayor has been around resilience planning and education, with particular attention to stormwater management. Mayor Nowick is now in the third year of his first term and is campaigning for a second term.

**Sarah Onofrio** is an Account Manager from Kuehne Company which is a chlor alkali manufacturer with 3 strategic locations supplying water treatment products across the Northeast. Sarah is experienced in a wide range of water and wastewater chemicals such as coagulants, polymers, and phosphates. She has worked for Brenntag, PVS and Univar where she used her expertise in on-site jar testing to assist plants with their chemical treatment. Sarah is currently developing the concentrated bleach initiative at Kuehne.

**Andrew (Andy) Smith** is a Department of Homeland Security/Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security (CISA) Protective Security Advisor (PSA) assigned to New Jersey. He serves as a security and resiliency subject matter expert and is the link between state, local, tribal, and territorial organizations, and DHS infrastructure mission partners. PSAs perform vulnerability and security assessments on a variety of the 16 sectors

of critical infrastructure to identify security gaps and potential vulnerabilities as well as coordinate training, support, special events, and incident response-management.

Andrew is a graduate of American Military University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Homeland Security, with honors. He also holds associate degrees in industrial security and human resource management from the Community College of the Air Force.

**Susan Rosenwinkel** has been with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for 34 years. Susan's current position is the Assistant Director of the Water Pollution Management Element within the Division of Water Quality. This Element includes the Bureau of Surface Water and Pretreatment Permitting as well as the Bureau of Ground Water Residuals and Permit Administration. Both these programs manage New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits including discharges to surface water, ground water, residuals and combined sewer overflows. Susan graduated from the College of Engineering at Rutgers University.

**Bob Snyder** started in the wastewater industry in 1996 at the Franklin Township Sewerage Authority and while working in Franklin obtained his C-1 collections system license. In 2003 joined the Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority (PARSA) as an Assistant Operations Manager, with responsibility for the authority's permanent billing and temporary flow metering system. In 2013 he received his C-4 wastewater collections system license from the NJDEP. In 2016 as part of the first graduating class he received his Certified Environment Authority Supervisor (CEAS) certification from the AEA Environmental Professional Development Academy. In 2019 Bob was promoted to Executive Director where he continues to serve today.

# Wave Award Recipients

## Outstanding Commissioner



### **Mary Jo Coutts, Hamilton Township Municipal Utilities Authority**

Mary Jo Coutts was appointed to the Hamilton Township Municipal Utilities Authority Board in 2012 and has served as chair, vice chair, treasurer and secretary. During the last two years as chair, she has been out in front helping navigate the HTMUA through some difficult negotiations.

Mary Jo embodies a customer-service ethic. In 2022, through her positive relationship with township officials, and her stance on doing what was best for ratepayers and office staff, she was able to aid in the negotiation for a new administrative headquarters in Hamilton Town Hall, all starting with a 10-year rent-free lease.

Under Mary Jo, the HTMUA has also been more present in the public eye by setting up a booth during the Township's National Night Out, Green Fair, and Trunk or Treat. For these reasons, she is being awarded an Outstanding Commissioner Wave Award.



### **Albert Jones, Cumberland County Utilities Authority**

Chairman Albert Jones was appointed to the Board of the Cumberland County Utilities Authority in 2000. Most noteworthy, the Board was faced with a business decision of whether the Authority should be privatized. Through thoughtful investigation, many meetings and Albert's guidance, the proposition was rejected. He showed that there was no value added by privatization and that the likely outcome would be higher cost to the ratepayer.

*Continues on next page*



He also presided over the proposition of including Broadband Communications as a division of the Utility. He, along with the Cumberland County Utilities Authority's administration, provided the proper legal guidance to bring that proposal to proper closure: rejection. Albert also presided over the unionizing of the utility and was instrumental in negotiating a successful maiden contract.

The utility is financially and organizationally strong as a result of the leadership of Chairman Jones, which is why he is being awarded as an Outstanding Commissioner.



### **Arthur Schmidt, Two Bridges Sewerage Authority**

Mr. Schmidt has proudly served on the Two Bridges Sewerage Authority since July 10, 1985. Going on four decades of service, Art has been deeply committed to TBSA and thoroughly engaged in all of its decision making.

His professionalism and leadership, combined with his long tenure, was, and still is, critical in developing and maintaining TBSA's culture of accountability and cooperation. He has served as chairman, vice chairman, treasurer, secretary, and has led several committees throughout his career. During his tenure, Art has helped to approve and guide over 40 critical construction projects totaling over \$60 million.

On top of all these accomplishments, Art has always supported the continued education of authority personnel and the active participation in AEA so that TBSA can continue to be at the forefront of environmental protection, earning him this Outstanding Commissioner award.



### **John Villapiano, Township of Ocean Sewerage Authority**

John Villapiano recently retired from more than six terms as a member of the Township of Ocean Sewerage Authority Board of Commissioners, completing a tenure that spanned more than half the agency's entire time in existence.

During his 31 years in that office, John served as treasurer, secretary, vice chairman, and chairman of the Authority. He served as the long-time chairman of the finance committee and was a key player in ensuring the continuity and long-term viability of the agency.

Prior to his service, he served on the Ocean Township planning board before his election to the Ocean Township Council, where he served for eight years. In 1987 he was elected to the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders and was later elected to the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey. During that time, John has been a tireless public advocate of environmental protection, earning him this Outstanding Commissioner award.

## Individual Achievement



### **Michael Dow, Bayshore Regional Sewerage Authority**

Michael Dow joined the Bayshore Regional Sewerage Authority in 2007 after a lengthy career at the Ford Motor Company. His hard work, attention to detail, and quality of work were clear at once. He was instrumental in planning and installing a new fiber optic network and security camera system at the authority treatment plant, saving a significant amount by completing the project with authority staff.

Michael made major contributions to the restoration and mitigation of the authority electrical system after Superstorm Sandy. Additionally, he has served as the bargaining unit shop steward for years, supporting a good working relationship between the bargaining unit and authority management.

At the end of 2023, he was recognized for his work ethic with a small token of the authority's appreciation, an internal award given out annually to the employee who has best exemplified the qualities that define an outstanding worker. That now continues with this award for Individual Achievement.



### **Carolann Weisel, Bayshore Regional Sewerage Authority**

Carolann Weisel joined the Bayshore Regional Sewerage Authority in 2018 and is currently its Qualified Purchasing Agent. She has 30 years of experience in municipal government, 12 of which have been dedicated to purchasing and the water/wastewater industry.

Carolann was instrumental in the development of an electronic requisition and purchase order system and the upgrading and conversion of the authority's accounting system software. She has joined many cooperative purchasing organizations, allowing the authority to realize significant cost savings. She is currently a member of the Governmental Purchasing Association of New Jersey Executive Board. When seeking answers to a problem, Carolann goes through archives and manuals, reaches out to previous colleagues, and goes down any other path that may provide what is needed.

Her numerous years of experience are an amazing resource, but it doesn't stop her from being eager to learn something new, which is why she earns this award for Individual Achievement.



# Best Management Practices

## Hanover Sewerage Authority

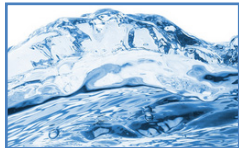


Hanover Sewerage Authority has implemented management and operation and maintenance programs which are designed to achieve 100% compliance with its NJPDES permit. HSA operates a system that consists of approximately 90 miles of pipe with over 2,100 manholes and 5,500 building connections in Hanover and parts of surrounding communities.

In 1987, the authority recognized that it had a poor record of compliance with permit limitations. A plan was developed to optimize the existing system, resolve conflicts between permit conditions and DMR forms, and more. As a result of these efforts, between June 1988 and December 2023 the authority did not exceed any permit limitation.

In July 2023, the authority was recognized by NACWA with a Platinum 34 Award recognizing compliance for 34 full years through 2022 and is expected to receive the Platinum 35 Award in 2024, currently the longest compliance period for a NACWA member. These efforts have earned HSA this Best Management Practices award.

## Musconetcong Sewerage Authority



The Musconetcong Sewerage Authority's existing wastewater treatment plant did not have influent screening facilities, which resulted in plastics, rags, and stringy materials causing blockages in process units and pumps. A new screening facility with a mechanical bar screen was installed. Also, the existing micro-strainers on the Tertiary Filter were at the end of their useful life, so the existing micro-strainers were replaced with disk filters.

Modifications to the building had to be implemented to install the filters and related piping. MSA also purchased 19 scum and sludge pumps to replace older pumps. Work involved demolition of existing pumps, installation of the new pumps, as well as piping and fittings. The new influent screen substantially reduced materials from being conveyed into the plant and the new disk filters ensure compliance with NJPDES permits.

The authority now has less maintenance on equipment due to clog and repairs, and full compliance with NJPDES permit requirements, earning them this Best Management Practices award.

## Energy Savers

### Hanover Sewerage Authority



Hanover Sewerage Authority's energy efficient practices and policies in operations, maintenance and capital projects aim to reduce energy usage and purchases of electric power and fuel oil while continuing to produce the highest quality effluent.

The largest project undertaken is its nitrification tank rehabilitation.

The original system was designed in the late 1980s – efficient for the time, but technology has greatly changed in the ensuing 25 years. Numerous smaller projects to improve energy efficiency have also been undertaken. This includes installation of variable speed drives for process and HVAC equipment, changing to LED lighting, an effluent-based heat pump system for their raw sewage pump station HVAC system, an active generation and energy recovery program, and more. No debt was issued for these projects.

The generation and energy recovery projects were funded through low-interest loans with principal forgiveness through the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank. These projects have now earned HSA an Energy Savers Wave award.

## Forward Thinking Award

### Bayshore Regional Sewerage Authority



Bayshore Regional Sewerage Authority

The Bayshore Regional Sewerage Authority began utilizing a Geographical Information System in 2019. The objective was to create one map and program to manage all aspects, records, and data of the authority's collection system.

The GIS system has since expanded as a tool to also manage developer applications, treatment plant utilities, asset management, and other applicable authority records. The GIS has become a useful tool for all staff. Most use it many times a week for varied tasks and projects. It is particularly helpful for daily mark-outs by the maintenance staff, especially in a wooded or easement area when finding a manhole.

The authority now has an organized, user-friendly system that tracks the authority's assets and all information available on them in one place, which is being recognized by this Forward Thinking Award.

### Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority



Camden's Cramer Hill neighborhood faces severe flooding challenges. In light of evolving, intertwined challenges, it was the responsibility of the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority to ensure that whatever infrastructure placed there was not only up for the challenges of today, but of 50 years from now.

*Continues on next page*

The authority partnered with researchers at the Drexel University Sustainable Water Resource Engineering Laboratory. The authority's partnership-oriented approach has so far attracted \$2.7 million in NJDEP funds to design and construct green infrastructure portions of the project and an additional \$2.1 million in 'Phase 1' funding from FEMA to study and design drainage improvements that will address flooding both today and from larger storms to come.

This dedication to partnership, community input and equity, and the authority's embrace of climate science, are why CCMUA earns this Forward Thinking Award.

### Hillsborough Township Municipal Utilities Authority



When Hillsborough Township Municipal Utilities Authority was formed in 1972 to oversee the then-rural township's wastewater operations, many of its small waste plants were falling into disrepair.

One location with a critical need was Blackwell's Mill's pump station, a traditional metal can dry well and concrete wet well. As the area evolved from farmland to large developments, incoming flows increased to the point that it became the second hardest working in town, despite being beyond life expectancy.

A decision was made in 2019 to look at replacement. Environmental studies, approvals, designs, and more took roughly two years. In December 2022, work began. With the new station now operational, flows, influx, and other functions are now monitored, making this the most versatile and modern in the town's 17-station inventory. More replacements are planned using it as a model, with the hope of standardizing designs and equipment. This effort has earned HTMUA this Forward Thinking Award.

### Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority



The Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority's existing odor control system consists of an in-ground wood chip biofilter, a system that requires increased maintenance to ensure satisfactory performance and is reaching the end of its useful life.

To address this, a new state-of-the-art biofilter odor control system will be installed. It will have a smaller required footprint, be a more efficient use of plant's process area space, reduce future maintenance, have a significantly longer life, and improve nuisance odor control, particularly with respect to sulfur compounds.

Engineering and construction cost totaled approximately \$2.7 million, an investment that will reap dividends for over a decade, thereby earning Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority this award for Forward Thinking.



## Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission



With an annual average treatment capacity of 330 million gallons per day, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission evaluated alternatives to expand its wet weather treatment capacity to 720 as part of its long-term planning.

To achieve that dramatic increase, PVSC is constructing a secondary bypass treatment facility which will reduce overflows to historically polluted waterways by approximately 1.4 billion gallons per year. That will support urban renewal and the pursuit of safe, fishable, swimmable water for the surrounding communities.

PVSC has successfully navigated the complex design phase and made it to the beginning of construction. Ground will be broken this spring with an estimated capital cost of \$100 million. PVSC is funding the extensive project using the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank. 80% of the construction costs will be funded through the American Rescue Plan Act. The facility is anticipated to be placed into operation in 2028, earning them this Forward Thinking award.

## Public Education

### Western Monmouth Utilities Authority



In 2023, the Western Monmouth Utilities Authority embarked on a community partnership with the Monmouth Council Boy Scouts of America and Teamsters Local 701 to promote environmental education among the youth of the region, especially those from underprivileged communities.

The centerpiece was a week-long Environmental STEM Careers Merit Badge Summer Camp hosted at WMUA's Pine Brook Wastewater Treatment Plant. The camp brought together WMUA employees and executives, scout leaders, Teamsters, and more. Together, they provided expert instruction in seven merit badges pivotal to careers in environmental protection. They covered environmental science, engineering, soil & water conservation, forestry, welding, automotive maintenance, and American labor.

The program's impact was profound, with 20 scouts earning a remarkable total of 94 merit badges. Participants came from diverse backgrounds and multiple counties, including those facing economic challenges. WMUA ensured that all eligible participants could attend without any cost, highlighting the authority's commitment to accessibility and equity and earning them this Public Education award.

**Thank you to Ron Anastasio, Mike Wynne, Keith Marcoon and Tom Laustsen for serving on the award review committee.**

## Congratulations to the 2023 Cohort

Eric Amato, Ocean County UA  
Richard Bock, Evesham MUA  
Evan Capuano, Middletown Township SA  
Morgan Clark, Evesham MUA  
Joe Clauss, Evesham MUA  
Vinnie D'Esposito, Township of Ocean SA  
Timothy Day, Sussex County MUA  
Tony DeSilva, Hamilton Township DWPC  
Arthur Green, Western Monmouth UA  
Brendan Hirsh, Evesham MUA  
Michael Kane, Western Monmouth UA  
James Lutes, Mt. Holly MUA  
Jonathan Mannarino, Middletown Township SA  
Craig Moyer, Evesham MUA  
Douglas McCombie, Ocean County UA  
Kevin O'Donnell, Atlantic County UA  
Steve Pierce, Lower Township MUA  
Joseph Sesto, Sussex County MUA  
William Shaw, Mt. Laurel Twp. MUA  
Christopher Winningham, Ocean County UA

**Thank you to the AEA Education and Conference Committee  
for putting together a timely and informative conference program.**

*The committee members are:*

Bill Gettings, chair, Alexa Alverio, Bernie Bujak, Tom Horn, Jill Plesnarski,  
Manuel Ponte, Dr. Apryl Roach, John Scheri, Steve Specht and Brian Valentino.

The committee was supported by AEA staff, Peggy Gallos, executive director,  
and Karen Burris, office manager, and by Lorna O'Hara and Tammi Kleszics from  
Princeton Public Affairs Group.

Conference Chairs:

Brian Brach, 1st Vice President  
Ron Anastasio, 2nd Vice President



**Association of Environmental Authorities**