CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

100 YEARS
1927 - 2027

Honoring a Century. Inspiring the Next.

May 17–19, 2027 | **Hilton Oak Brook Hills Resort, Oak Brook, IL**

The Central States Water Environment Association (CSWEA) Technical Program Committee is responsible for technical sessions at the Annual Meeting. Participants in any sector of the water environment field are cordially invited to submit abstracts for evaluation. Abstract submissions that will be given highest consideration include:

- Submissions with a focus on day-to-day treatment, by people with hands-on experience at facilities.
- Topics of emerging concern or current industry focus, such as climate driven impacts on POTWs or a One Water planning approach.
- Case studies presented from diverse perspectives, such as operators, young professionals, middle management, and utility leaders.
- Research topics and case studies related to new and innovative technologies.
- Submissions focusing on local projects or issues.

ABSTRACTS WILL BE SCORED BY THE TECHNICAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE BASED UPON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1. **Originality and status of subject:** The abstract should present new concepts or new and novel applications of established concepts. It also may describe substantial improvements of existing theories or present significant data in support or in furtherance of those theories. Studies with incomplete results or ill-defined problem statements should be avoided.
2. **Content:** Abstracts can either be technical or non- technical in nature. In either case, it should be evident that the abstract clearly describes the entirety of the content that would be presented in a technical session. The abstract content should be objective and non-biased toward specific products, suppliers, approaches, or otherwise. Each abstract should contain clear purpose and impact for conference attendees.
3. **Water environment significance:** The author should clearly describe the pertinence of the abstract content to a practical area of concern or interest within the water quality, wastewater and/or stormwater management industries.
4. **Adequacy of abstract preparation:** The adequacy of an abstract is often indicative of the final presentation quality. The abstract summarizes the presentation; therefore, it should provide a concise summary of objectives, scope, general procedures, results, and conclusions. To receive full credit for abstract format, submitters are encouraged to use the downloadable Abstract Template available on the CSWEA website. Submittal of presentation slides or a generic product brochure in place of an abstract will not be considered.

Please have all materials ready before starting the submission process. You can save and return to the online form once you start the abstract submission process. Presenting authors will be notified in January 2027 of the acceptance or rejection of the abstract. On behalf of the Technical Program Committee, thank you for your interest in – and contributions to – this year's technical program!

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Submit abstracts by 11:59 PM CST on November 30, 2026 at
https://members.cswea.org/members/proposals/propselect.php?orgcode=CNTW&prid=2204167

DETERMINE ABSTRACT TYPE

For Technical Abstracts
- Highlight desktop, benchtop, pilot study, full-scale projects, etc.
- Includes data, figures, and methodology.

For Non-Technical Abstracts
- Highlight soft skills, utility management and leadership.
- Does not require data but should allow for clear interpretation of the author's intent.

ABSTRACTS MUST CONTAIN

Necessary Elements of Abstract
- Use the downloadable **Abstract Template** available on the CSWEA website that includes:
  - Title
  - Author(s)
  - Introduction/Background
  - Main Content
  - Broader Impacts
- Include all tables, figures, and references.
- Full abstract shall be 3-6 pages in length.

SUBMIT ABSTRACT ONLINE

Online Submission
- Enter the Abstract Title.
- Enter an Abstract Summary (120 words max)
- Select your presentation format (oral or poster)
- Import Presenter and Co-Author affiliations and contact information.
- Choose your applicable topic area(s)
- Upload your abstract document (PDF with filename format: *Last Name–Abstract Title*).

Looking for abstract topic ideas? Consider these!

IMPLEMENTATION of OPERATIONS and MAINTENANCE:
- Efficiency (pumps, motors, UV disinfection, HVAC, etc.)
- Technology, SCADA, Web-based maintenance programs, GIS applications.
- Troubleshooting and Optimization – Traditional facilities (activated sludge, BNR), new processes (nutrient recovery), etc.
- Facility case studies
- Startup case studies

ADVANCEMENTS in LIQUIDS TREATMENT:
- Enhanced primary treatment
- Secondary treatment advancements and intensification
- Nutrient removal
- Tertiary treatment/removal
- Reuse
- Disinfection
- Innovative controls approaches

WATERSHEDS and STORMWATER MANAGEMENT:
- Climate change-driven impacts on treatment plants
- Green infrastructure solutions and best management practices
- Implementing MS4 permit requirements
- Anti-degradation and other regulatory issues
- Using grants and other funding sources to implement stormwater management as part of CIP projects
- Habitat or groundwater protection or restoration
- Non-point source pollution modeling
- Water quality trading and watershed management issues and initiatives, including adaptive management
- Total maximum daily loads - point and non-point sources
- Public education and outreach

UTILITY MANAGEMENT:
- Communications
- Employee recruitment, retention, and development
- Succession planning
- Project funding
- Utility rate development and reviews
- Asset management
- Emergency planning
- Significant industrial users and industrial pretreatment
- Emergency response/repairs

RESOURCE RECOVERY and ENERGY OPTIMIZATION:
- Nutrient recovery
- High strength waste and co-digestion
- Digester gas production, treatment and use
- Digestion advancements including thermal processes
- Heat recovery case studies
- Alternative energy use
- Energy management and savings to utility management

COLLECTION SYSTEMS:
- Rehabilitation technologies/methods
- Rehabilitation case studies
- Design and Operation
- Public education -using and protecting the system
- CMOM program development and implementation
- Green infrastructure case studies
- Infiltration/inflow management case studies
- Stormwater and combined sewer overflow management
- Stormwater conveyance

RESEARCH and DESIGN:
- New/innovative technology research and application
- Nutrient removal technologies
- Sustainability in design and construction
- Toxics/emerging pollutants monitoring and control
- Treatment design
- Wastewater reuse, applications, technology and regulatory issues
- Wastewater surveillance

RESIDUALS, SOLIDS AND BIOSOLIDS:
- Advances in thickening and dewatering
- Pollutants of Emerging Concern – PFAS, microplastics
- Standard or advanced treatment and stabilization
- Environmental management systems – National Biosolids Partnership
- Public education and awareness, case studies
- Fertilizer production – Class A case studies
- Regulatory compliance

GENERAL:
- Laboratory issues and bench-scale studies
- Pretreatment, industrial treatment, and pollution prevention
- Pollutants of emerging concern – PFAS, chlorides, etc.
- Public education to address emerging concerns – chlorides, leachate, rags, flushable wipes, etc.
- Regulatory issues
- Facility security issues
- Engineering ethics training
- Collection system/treatment plant odor control

SOFT SKILLS/LEADERSHIP:
- Leadership skills
- Managing ill or injured employees
- Generational integration
- Anti-harassment and discrimination training for Managers
- Employee performance evaluations
- Union negotiations
- Handling the grievance and arbitration process
- Managing in a union environment
- Labor Laws
- Management rights for Managers
- Social media and the workplace