21st Annual Northern Conference

Riding the Wave

IRWA

ILLINOIS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

October 27 & 28, 2026

Attendee Information

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center—Rockford, Illinois

Hotel Block is open until 9/26/26

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Radisson Hotel and Conference Center
200 S. Bell School Road
Rockford, IL 61108
Call 815-226-2100 for reservations
Double or Single $119.00+tax per night
Online booking at http://choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/TT80Z1

Mention Illinois Rural Water Association

PRE-REGISTRATION - Registration and badges are required for all conference attendees. Please register each attendee by completing the registration form below and return it with your payment to: **IRWA, P.O. BOX 49**, **TAYLORVILLE, IL 62568**. You may also sign up on-line and pay with a credit card at: www.ilrwa.org. All fees must be paid when registering - we cannot do special billings or purchase orders. *IRWA will **not** send a confirmation of registration.*

Pre-registration must be postmarked by October 16, 2026. Registrations received after this date will be considered "on-site".

ON-SITE REGISTRATION: All conference attendees must obtain a name badge and conference material at the registration desk. If you do not pre-register, please make sure that you register as soon as possible after you arrive at the conference. *****Please note that on-site registration fees are $25.00 higher than pre-registration*****

REGISTRATION HOURS: Tuesday, Oct. 27th 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. ***AND*** Wednesday, Oct. 28th: 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS: Refunds are only given in cases of emergency situations. You must provide a written request to the IRWA office in order to receive a refund.

EXHIBIT HALL: 37 companies will be on site to bring you the newest products and services they have to offer. Exhibit hall hours: October 27th: 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. AND October 28th: 8:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

HOSPITALITY NIGHT: Tuesday evening 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Please join us for food & beverages!

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS: IRWA is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and professional environment for all participants. All individuals attending the conference are expected to conduct themselves with integrity, professionalism, and respect toward others. Harassment, discrimination, intimidation, or any form of disruptive behavior—whether verbal, physical, or visual will not be tolerated.

IRWA reserves the right to take appropriate action, including but not limited to removal from the event, without refund, in response to violations of this policy. IRWA further reserves the right to prohibit individuals from attending future events. By attending this event, you acknowledge and agree to abide by these expectations. If any participant experiences or witnesses inappropriate behavior, they are encouraged to report it to our staff immediately.

Registration Form

Please print or type

NAME:_____E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

SYSTEM REPRESENTING:_____

ADDRESS:_____

CITY:_____STATE:_____ZIP:_____

(PLEASE CIRCLE REGISTRATION TYPE)

FULL REGISTRATION:
(Includes Technical Sessions, Meals, Activities & Exhibit Hall for both days)

MEMBER $165.00 NON-MEMBER $215.00

ONE DAY REGISTRATION:
(Includes Technical Sessions, Meals, Activities & Exhibit Hall for ONE DAY ONLY- ***circle day***)

MEMBER $120.00 attending Tuesday or Wednesday NON-MEMBER $160.00 attending Tuesday or Wednesday

Please make check payable to: **Illinois Rural Water Association, P.O. Box 49, Taylorville, IL 62568**

SESSIONS AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.— Rural Development Update - Tim Glass; Rural Development Office *(Dual Credit)* Listen to the most recent updates from RD.

10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.— IEPA Regulation Update - TBD (*Water Credit Only)* This session will focus on changes coming to the CCR's as well as other reg updates.

1:00 p.m.-12:00 p.m.— Meet the IEPA - IEPA Panel *(Water Credit Only)* Meet the newest members of the IEPA staff.

1:00 p.m.-1:45 p.m.— Releasing Seized Valves without Replacement – Joe Nepras; M.E. Simpson *(Water Credit Only)* Hear some case studies at this session on how to accomplish this task.

1:45 p.m.-2:30 p.m.— Remote Monitoring Telemetry Equipment - Doug Vermillion; Badger Meter *(Water Credit Only)* This session will focus on water meters, loss management and telemetry.

3:00 p.m.-3:45 p.m.— Balancing an Ecosystem - Nishant Narayanan; Lake Forest Academy Student (*Water Credit Only)* Case study of how a one-acre pond with 3.5 million gallons of water with a depleted ecosystem was restored.

3:45 p.m.-4:30 p.m.— Ductile Iron Pipe—Best Installation Practices - David Emmerich; US Pipe (*Dual Credit)* Starting with how it's made through installation and how to use DIP with horizontal directional boring will be reviewed.

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.— Using Aeration in Your Water & Wastewater System - Daniel Johnson; Triplepoint (*Dual Credit)* We will discuss nitrification, denitrification, and Phosphorus removal in aerated lagoons including process modifications or using hybrid mechanical technologies to supplement existing lagoons. to aerate drinking water intakes to reduce algae, taste, and odor problems, and storm water ponds to reduce algae and odor.

10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m.— Stakeholder and Public Communications for Infrastructure Projects - Sophia Parr and Michael Goldrich; Chastain Engineers *(Dual Credit)* This presentation will cover techniques for identifying stakeholders, strategies for effective outreach, and tools for targeted communications.

11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.— Practical Uses of AI in Water and Wastewater Utilities - Ken Hayes; Core and Main *(Dual Credit)* Discussion will provide real examples and provide a basis for understanding this emerging technology.

1:00 p.m.-1:45 p.m.— Proper Lab Procedures - Kelly Klostermann; Teklab, Inc. *(Dual Credit)* A requested topic from last year's feedback. Find out at this session if your sampling technique is correct. Both water and wastewater sampling will be discussed.

1:45 p.m.-2:30 p.m.— Telemetry & SCADA 101 - How to Alarm, Monitor, and Control with Today's Tech - Sam Cole; Gasvoda & Associates (*Dual Credit)* This presentation will cover types of telemetry and SCADA equipment, communication methods, and what you might monitor. It will help the modern operator see how they can be better informed, manage more with less time, all without breaking the bank and maybe even using some of your existing equipment.

2:45 p.m.– 3:45 p.m.— Sampling Handling and DMRs - Scott Tozier; IRWA *(Dual Credit)* Attendees will be provided information on water and wastewater monitoring and sample handling. Reporting discharge monitoring results to regulatory agencies will also be discussed.

There are no wastewater only sessions at this conference.
However, 5.75 hours of the 10.75 credits offered may be used for dual credit.

ILLINOIS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION
PO Box 49
Taylorville, IL 62568
www.ilrwa.org

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SPRINGFIELD, IL
PERMIT NO. 800

Follow us!

21st Annual Northern Conference

October 27 & 28, 2026

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center
Rockford, Illinois

Attendee information inside!