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Cover photo by Keith Bedell

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H2Oregon is the official publication of the Oregon Association of Water Utilities, and is published quarterly for distribution to representatives of rural and municipal suppliers. Issues are mailed free of charge to member and nonmember rural water/wastewater associations. Articles and photos are encouraged with payment in complimentary copies.

H₂Oregon is published for the Oregon Association of Water Utilities by

Mt. Angel Publishing, Inc.

135 N. Main St., Mt. Angel, OR 97362 503-845-9499 fax: 503-845-9202 www.mtangelpub.com

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OAWU's mission is to provide service, support and solutions for Oregon water & wastewater utilities to meet the challenges of today & tomorrow.

Influential Habits

by Jason Green, Executive Director

Leadership practices and behaviors result in some manner of influence. Leaders desire or should, that those they are charged with willingly follow, but often the challenge is how does a leader cultivate the desired willing response? This brings to mind the two basic facts of leadership – there is the "position" and the "person" in the position and much of what problems are about begin with the boss as he or she sets the cadence for others. There are many studies, and both experienced and some not-so-experienced opinions regarding this age-old subject of leadership influence.

Positive influence of a leader often has depth of effect and long-term impact on us. Some of these influences cause us to respect, admire, like, want to be like our leaders and motivate us. We do not often consider the true value of a leader who has the emotional intelligence and who places an extremely high value, seen in action awareness and focus, upon their staff relationship and attention to staff, their growth and success. The following sample of qualities and practices are worthy of contemplation for the experienced leader and those considering or working towards a leadership position.

Influential Leaders:

Are approachable. This leader knows that every employee is valuable, regardless of rank or ability. They value our time, input and questions and advice. This often self proclaimed quality, if exhibited, can further motivate us to work right, harder.

Form personal connections with us, building trust, helping motivate. We know they believe we are important and not just a number. They are able to communicate with words and most importantly, exemplify their words and connection with us by their consistent actions.

Are humble and give credit and appreciation when and where due at the appropriate level. The humble leader does not make everything about "them" and often attempt to avoid the spotlight. Arrogance and the practice of its all about "me" kills respect and motivation in others quickly.

Practice being positive and trustful first. Saying no is different than being negative, though it is generally a negative response. Being positive is more relative in how we think and then is displayed in action and attitude. Connecting trust with being positive may be questioned, but consider how a negative attitude regularly corresponds with someone who distrusts. We often see others as we think – it is the discerning leader who is able to move beyond this shortcoming. This is not to say the leader should not question or verify or say no, it simply challenges the leader to first consider yes and trust before we know the full story. Conclusions are best timely without any jumping. Negative people do not appreciate those who are positive and interestingly, positive folks can easily identify negativity.

Are even-keeled. Following someone who is a regular emotional basket case, moody, prone to fits and outbursts is a challenging task! A calm boss, even gentle, is someone greatly appreciated and often admired for their restraint and self-control. They may be an extrovert, animated or "A" type personality, but consistently prove to be steady and able to take things in stride with grace.

Are generous. I am guessing most of us have had the experience of working with someone who withholds, doesn't share, keeps valuable information or resources to themselves whether for power, control, to manipulate, afraid someone might outshine them or out of plain meanness. A leader or co-worker who cares for others and wants others to win, shares, is generous and practices unselfishness. It is refreshing to know that your boss places a very high priority in your success. Generosity is a quality that builds trust, satisfaction and pride.

Hoping these few qualities cause further considerations of our mental views, attitudes and our practices as seen by others, and how we might influence others in a positive way. We will add to this list in the future. Best wishes.



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Home Ownership

by Mike Collier, Deputy Director/Source Water Specialist

When we buy a home, we are usually very excited, but also may have a little buyer's remorse because of the amount of money and the long-term debt we have just signed up for. Sometimes you buy a house and immediately something goes wrong, water heater goes out, and maybe there is already some general maintenance that needs to be attended to — all the moss on the roof. Then as time progresses, more items break, microwave dies and more maintenance that needs attention, the house needs a new coat of paint.

Fixing these items and maintaining the house are all time consuming and costly but are necessary if you want to live in a useable, comfortable home. Some small amount of failure can end to be very costly, pipe starts to leak, but you don't know, then a little sheet rock tape begins to peal downstairs. Before long you need to replace a few pieces of sheet rock and have black mold starting behind the wall, but you still are tracing the leak back, because it is actually from a pipe upstairs, but is running along a pipe all the way to where it is coming out on sheetrock downstairs.

The type of care and concern we need for our homes we should also have at the water or wastewater system; the same principals apply. It is an expensive, long-term investment that needs a lot of yearly general maintenance and some long-term maintenance plans. Each staff member that comes on has inherited the good and bad things from the previous "owner," and finally there are failures that still can occur that were not foreseen.

Do we have the short term and long-term plans ready for the utility? Have we done the necessary maintenance? Do we know what parts are getting old? Do we have a way to quickly fix it when a failure occurs (phone numbers to find the needed part, or the part ready to go on the shelf)? These are all important things to consider, especially as winter falls upon us and everything gets colder, wetter, darker, and more difficult to fix. •







Wasting Away!

by Monty Norris, Wastewater Technician

What's the best way to eliminate excess biosolids? It depends! Creating biosolids is technically treatment. Take too much out and there may not be enough treatment to treat the incoming solids (AKA food); leave too much and there is not enough food for the activated sludge to survive or at least the preferred biology because some (dreaded filaments) will get food before the others. We try to maintain a balance that targets and optimizes plant process to create the best quality effluent water to the receiving waters or for land irrigation. It's easy to say just follow the standard parameters... but wasting, as we all know, can be a plant's bottleneck! What are our options? Let's explore a few.

Belt filter presses typically will see 16% solids from activated sludge, but it can be as low as 12% and high as 20%. If running anaerobically digested sludge it can be 24%-35% sludge cake. It's all dependent on the solid content coming in and properly mixing/dosing the polymer.

I place dryers behind the belt press because it is usually a post belt press. A belt press is generally fed into a hopper to be fed at a specified rate into the dryer and held at a temperature that will create a roughly 90% or higher solid and meet class A solids with time/temp. The footprint needed to store these solids for summertime application is usually minimal and can be loaded for the farmer or applied, however if a customer is loaded at the plant facility the plant is less responsible.

Screw presses will typically produce a higher % solids (15%-22% on activated sludge) than a belt filter press but are a more costly investment up front. Just the same as the belt press is, all dependent on the quality of solids coming in.

Gravity belts will create 2%–10% solids and are usually being sent to a holding tank to be applied as field application after going through a SOUR process or Lime Treatment to achieve at least class B solids. These could also be dosed with polymer and applied to drying beds for further dewatering, sent to dewatering roll-off containers or dewatering bags. These dewatering containers can provide 5%–20% solids, so may be a viable option for your plant or a temporary or emergency situation.

Anaerobic digestion is a treatment process that is used on organic materials, such as sewage sludge. Microorganisms naturally break down these materials in a tank that lacks oxygen to create an energy-rich biogas. Typically, this will create class "B" solids for land application.

Aerobic digestion occurs much faster than anaerobic digestion. The process is usually run at ambient temperature and the process is much less complex and easier to manage than anaerobic digestion. These will typically need to be lime treated or go through SOUR which requires a lot of time.

Both these processes can be very expensive and still need to be dewatered unless being land applied.

Lagoons can manage to run a long period of time (up to 20 years or more depending on the size of lagoon)

before needing to be dredged. Many lagoons are currently adding an additive to help with the breakdown of solids with success by increasing solids degradation. When it is needed, the cost of dredging may vary greatly, however if funds were set aside and budgeted, then there shouldn't be a problem.

Hauling solids is the next thing to keep in mind when dewatering solids. How or who is going to haul the solids to the landfill? Obviously hauling yourself is the most inexpensive, but not always a possibility so then it is either a local sanitation company or a private company hauling, which can add up fast. Dewatering seemed inexpensive until the hauling bill shows up. Private companies that provide solids dewatering and hauling from digesters or holding tanks can be an expensive option and sometimes is the only option or for times of emergency.

Composting is becoming more and more talked about and larger municipalities are giving it a go successfully.





Time, Temp, ratio of carbon to nitrogen, air, and voila you're off and running, right? There are a lot more steps to it which make it more rocket science than simple gardening practices. It has been a publicly accepted compost and gardening amendment, so much, that they are selling it rather than giving it away and the piles are empty which mean no hauling fees.

In the end, what works for one plant may not work for another plant. Does it create more unaffordable labor? Do we have enough land? Is it unnecessary to create class A vs class B? Do we have the capacity to hold and land apply a 4% solid vs creating a 16% solid and going to a landfill—and is it cheaper when calculating the cost of labor, fuel, and equipment?

There are too many variables to make a quick decision without doing all the homework based on your facility and ability. When and if you decide to change, it would be best to take time to consider all the variables. •

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Chlorine Disinfection for Wastewater

by Keith Bedell, Wastewater Technician

What kind of chlorine disinfection do you use for your wastewater? I am mainly talking about the liquid bleach and solid tablets that people are currently using. How simple is your system? I have seen where potable water under pressure is fed into a tank with pellets or tablets. This system has a pressure reducing valve and a float switch to control the level of the water that is eroding the solid chlorine. Then water flows into another tank with a specialized pump to feed it into a wet-well connected to the chlorine contact chamber.

Another system used water as a mover through a venturi system that sucked the 12.5% bleach from a 55-gallon drum into the feed water going to the chlorine contact chamber. One of the problems with this type of feed system was that crystals would build up and reduce the flow of the mixed chlorine water to the contact chamber. The system had to add CO2 to the system so the crystals would not build up and hamper the delivery of disinfection water, so the effluent would be treated to permit requirements for beneficial reuse. This system also had a glass rotameter for controlling the flows which had to be periodically cleaned. After using this system for a while, the utility decided to try a different approach that was simpler. They installed a peristaltic pump on the wall with the suction line in the 55-gallon drum of bleach which was pumped directly into the chlorine contact chamber without any quality loss of the bleach, and this provided a simple solution for their process.

For disinfection of treated effluent for beneficial reuse as irrigation water on a crop to be harvested, it must meet at least class "C" requirements. "Class C recycled water it must be oxidized and disinfected with the Total Coliform not to exceed a median of 23 total coliform organisms per 100 mL, based on the last 7 days that analyses have been completed" (DEQ permit requirements). Unlike stream discharge of treated effluent, there isn't a requirement to reduce the amount of chlorine in the irrigation water, just the reduction of Total coliforms and, depending on the quality of water that is being treated, you might have to maintain a residual of 5mg/L of total chlorine.

Another simple setup for disinfection of recycled water is using Calcium Hypochlorite tablets which are approximately 70% available chlorine and come in small ¾ inch up to 3-inch discs depending on the manufacturer. This type of system has a flow through holding tank where the tablets are placed with the recycled water flowing over them causing the slow erosion of the tablets releasing the chlorine. Fresh water can also be used to dissolve the tablets producing a chlorine solution that is run into the chlorine contact chamber or basin for the disinfection process. I personally like to keep things simple no matter what the process. There is less maintenance, fewer parts to break down, and keep supplies to keep on the shelf. It is also easier to trouble shoot a system that only has a few operational parts than one that has all different kinds of equipment to maintain or troubleshoot. I would like to adhere to the following principle and hope everyone else would to a point, keep it simple, stupid (KISS) is a design principle which states that designs and/or systems should be as simple as possible. Wherever possible, complexity should be avoided in a system. •



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Safety in Confined Space

by Tim Tice, Projects Manager

Rules for confined spaces, if not for the internet, would be a subject lost in the weeds.

These rules are described in the Oregon Administrative Rules in Division 2, Subdivision J, the section for General Environment Controls, which—when someone opens the document—the subject "sanitation for the workplace" is the first topic. It is not until you move towards page 23 of Subdivision "J" when you will begin to see rules governing confined spaces.

Most sets of rules begin with the "purpose and application," followed by "exceptions," then "definitions." With any subject matter, or industry, comes with a specific lingo that needs to be learned and the definition part of the rules is a great place to start.

Confined space rules are not too complicated and to ensure compliance with them, there are many checklists developed by agencies, organizations, and universities that are free to view and use. Oregon OSHA supplies a self-inspection checklist offering an ability to review the effectiveness of your current program. Said checklist delves into many of the uncommon rules and practices, which may or may not apply to your facility.

Reading through several confined space written programs has expanded my understanding of the topic—yet full understanding can be daunting. A thorough approach is to match each point from a checklist to the same point in your written program, even answering "not applicable" when an item doesn't apply.

Hot work, or "welding," may never be a part of the tasks associated with your workplace in a confined space, but it should be addressed in the written program. An anomaly for welding includes an additional set of rules found in 437-002-0279, which is preceded by CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) 29-1910.252.

We are not expected to know all the rules associated with safety, but most of the time reviewing a checklist will create questions as they relate to your existing written program and none-the-less, we are responsible to adhere to the rules. Key areas usually forgotten are:

- Lock-out / Tag-out procedures that may/may not be necessary
- Trained rescuer on-site during the entry, immediately available, when it is required
- Timeline for atmospheric testing equipment to be calibrated
- Back-up equipment, focus on battery powered tools and lighting

Overlooked issues that deal with confined space work is the assumption workers understand their positions when they do not. To help with worker understanding we can train all positions at the supervisor level. While on-site, the title of each crew person is still the same but being able to question each other will raise the job site awareness level of everyone.

Training documentation is important because, if an action is undocumented, that action did NOT happen.

Another point on confined space work is fall protection. If falling is the only hazard, then the space is not considered confined. But if a confined space also has a potential fall hazard, this hazard must also be addressed in the written program, as well as on the permit itself.

During routine review of the current written program, we should see that it aligns with the rules and confirm the efficacy of the program, but training and employee understanding solidifies the program to a higher level. •





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Lead and Copper: Here

by Bob Waller, Water Circuit Rider

Many times when I am trying to come up with ideas for a magazine article, things just fall in my lap.

We had just returned from our national conference and had a couple of calls from systems that had questions about results from their lead and copper samples. Well, it just so happens we had a couple classes on this very subject. In the new lead and copper rule the action level has stayed the same at 15 ppb which we have been dealing with for years, but now they are adding a trigger level at 10 ppb which will put many systems at risk. There is even talk of lowering the action level to or below the trigger level to "simplify the rule," haha.

Some expect the MCL violations for lead to increase up to 40%. This is just speculation, but I have looked at data online and using current results, many systems would have exceeded the trigger level. We can rest assured the number of calls on lead and copper will increase.

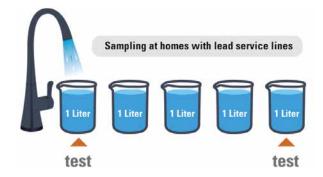
So, reading through the OARs pertaining to the lead and copper rule, I went through some of what is required when we do our normal lead and copper samples. We take our bottles and chain of custody forms to our customers to get our normal lead and copper samples. Maybe we're on a three-year schedule. We go through how to properly take the samples and hope for the best when we pick them up the next morning.

Under the current rule: when our results come back, we are required to share those results with the customers that were involved no matter the results. The customers that had results at or above the 15 ppb or 0.015mg/L we are also required to give them specific educational information on the health effects of lead and copper.

If we exceed the 90th percentile, the water system must provide educational material to all paying customers in the system. OAR 333-061-0034 (5). The number of samples that are taken or based on the number of people served in your system.

What is the 90th percentile?

Simply put, if we take 20 samples, we would arrange them from lowest to highest in the concentration of lead found and we would go nine-tenths of the



We Go Again!

way up that scale if we are still under the MCL the system is not in violation. In other words, with 20 samples, we could have 2 over the MCL and not be in violation; 10 samples we could have 1 over the MCL and not be in violation.

For systems under 100 people served, taking only five samples, you would take the average of the two highest results for compliance. There are many other actions we will have to take if this is our first lead exceedance; we can collect two 6 month rounds of lead and copper samples to demonstrate no lead issues. This must be done in conjunction with public education and evaluating appropriate treatment.

OAR 333-061-0034 (5) has the exact language required for the educational information and you are welcome to go through it and develop your own form. Much like having a boil water notice already formatted, it is also a good idea

Pre-formatted public education materials

For materials you can use to share information about lead testing, visit the site below and scroll down to the section **Lead and Copper Public Education Requirements.** Look for the **Lead in Drinking Water Public Education Brochure Template**, which is available as a Microsoft Word document or as a PDF for both community water systems and non-transient non-community water systems.

https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/ HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/DRINKINGWATER/ OPERATIONS/Pages/publicnotices.aspx#lc

to have an educational form on file. The state has a form already formatted, so all we have to do is insert our specific information in and we are all set (see box above).

If lead is present above the action level, public education must be delivered to water users.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact OAWU. We are always here to help. ♦



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Let's talk solutions!

Better Communications

by Scott Berry, Operations Manager

Following the vein of my last article about communication, I thought it would be a good idea to cover another related topic for this article. This is a topic I have developed a, somewhat, tenuous relationship with over the years. My relationship started with writing patient care reports as an EMT, then preparing reports for a water utility board of directors and finally, the tenuous part, these quarterly magazine articles for the past 2 decades. These articles are admittedly not quite the same as a document intended to brief a board or council, but some of the aspects are similar.

Before I start a report like this, I always clearly define both the intent of the report as well as the target audience. As for the intent, the two most likely reasons are either to simply disseminate information or to inform them of needed expenditures. I follow these five steps:

- Know your audience! Every group of people bring with them their own
 preconceived notions, agendas, and pet projects. I present that fact as
 neither a negative nor a positive—it just is. Do your best to know what
 those personalities and issues are; it will help you greatly when we get to the
 last point below.
- State your position clearly and as succinctly as is prudent. Use language that clearly demonstrates what you need, why you need it, what it will cost, and what the pros and cons are.
- Be concise and map out specifically what you're proposing or what information you're sharing. Avoid tangents and rabbit trails. Never assume your audience will read between the lines. Provide a good flow of information and present it in a factual manner.
- Support your position with evidence, factual data, examples, and expert opinions. Try to keep emotion out while stating your position. If your position is met with an emotional response, don't get emotional when you in turn respond.
- Anticipate, prepare for, and respond to objections with clear and well-articulated answers. Do your homework and be as thoroughly knowledgeable of the subject as possible.

These steps will help to clearly get the message across whether in a boardroom or via any other method of information dissemination.

Hopefully this method will serve you as well as it has me in the past—and don't forget, if you ever find yourself staring blankly at a computer screen and past your deadline for a magazine article, you can always write an article about how to write an article.





Beyond Expectation

by Hans Schroeder, Circuit Rider

I want to share an experience I had the other day. A product that I bought at a local store failed within a day of owning it. I decided to call the distributor of this product. I explained to them that it failed immediately. The customer service person stated that they were glad that I brought this to their attention and that they were going to pull this product off the market within the US. Customer service stated to go back where I purchased the item for a refund.

Now the story gets better. I go back to the store to discuss the issue and I was told that without a receipt the store could not return the item. I even had an email from the distributor stating that the store would give a full refund from the company. I left with the item figuring it was a mute point and that I just learned a lesson about keeping every receipt from every purchase I make. A few days later I get a follow up email from the distributor of the product asking how the transaction went with the local store. I replied that with no receipt the store would not take the return and that the store's customer service was very sub-par (I was very surprised when the distributor of the item actually followed up to find out if I was able to return the item to the local store). The distributor customer service emailed me and stated that she had contacted the store and gave a name of the manager for me to contact the next time I get to town. I then went back again to the retail store, and by golly, they knew my name as soon as I entered the store. The distracted, unhappy store manager had my refund promptly available this time (I felt that she just wanted to be done with me).

I was absolutely shocked at how the distributor went far and beyond my expectations, going out of their way to make sure my experience didn't go unnoticed and that the item got returned and replaced. I then followed up by emailing the distributor customer service to thank them for the great service provided.

A simple question crossed my mind: "Do we go above and beyond in providing service to customers, users, citizens, council members or boards in our industry?" Making service a priority to our constituents. It takes a conscious effort to listen to the concern then to act on it clear to the end. •

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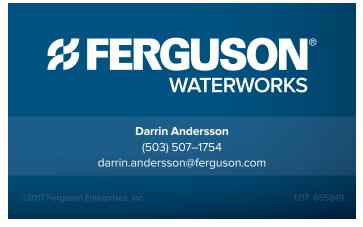
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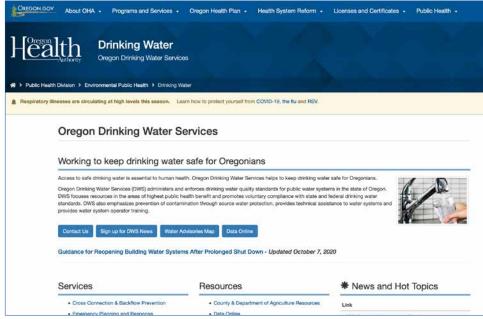




OHA DWS Website

Heath Cokeley, Programs Manager/Circuit Rider

How many of you are already using the Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) Drinking Water Services (DWS) website? My hope is the majority of water operators and board members for small systems that may only require an "S" level certification are already using the website. If not, or if you are only using it to look up what water samples your system is required to take, I would encourage you to get on the site and to look around for a bit as it contains a lot of good information. If you do an online search for "OHA DWP" the first option likely to appear is the drinking water services website.



There are few areas in this website that may be helpful.

First, and probably the most important part for a water operator, is the data online page. After you open the website, you will see four blue boxes in the middle of the page and the last one says, "data online." This link takes you into a page where we can look up any water system in Oregon. Click in the "Water System Search" icon and either type in part of the systems name, or if you know it, the system id number. My hope is this is review for most of you who likely already have this saved to your favorites because after you get into your system there is a lot of information that we can check on to make sure it is accurate. If we find things that are inaccurate, we can contact the DWP staff to get those things corrected. The top should have the contact person information as well as population, number of connections, system certification requirements, etc. Click on "certified operators," it will show all individuals and their license classification if they work for or are under contract for the system. Going down the main page it shows all the system's sources of water and below that the different types of treatment applied, if any. Next will be the consumer confidence report and then the Cross Connection section. Under the Cross Connection section will be another helpful area where

we can look up all the contacts, with a brief description of the conversation under "Contacts & Advisories" or the water sampling schedule under "Chemical Schedule Details." There are a lot more sections and information you may find of interest here, but I just wanted to mention a few.

Back on the home page for DWS we see that the first blue boxes reads "Contact Us" which will give a staff directory to get in direct contact with a staff member. A little way under the blue boxes we see "Services" and "Resources" and I encourage you to click on the links below them to get more information. For instance, if we are trying to become a certified water operator, we would look under the "Services" and click on "Operator Certification" which takes us to a page that deals just with certification. If we click on the "New Certification" tab about halfway down that page, it shows all the things we will need to fill out to start that process. Going back to the home page again, look under "Resources" we see the "Rules & Implementation Guidelines" tab. At the top

of that page click on "Drinking Water Rules" we see all of Oregon Administrative Rules 333-061. Back on the previous page, we see information on Service line Inventory, as well as other things we may find helpful.

OK... at the end of this article, I realize it may not have been a super fun or exciting topic, and for those of you who are already very familiar with the DWS website it may not have been anything you weren't already aware of. My hope is that if you weren't aware of the website or haven't been on it for some time this article will encourage you to go explore it a bit and see what new resources the drinking water staff have provided, because at the end of the day, even though I may get frustrated when the website changes and I can't find what I am looking for, I do find this website a great resource to stay up to date on what is going on in water.

Thanks for taking the time to read this article, and with that I will see you down the road. ♦





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TRUCTURE

UPCOMING TRAINING & EVENTS

Date	Class Title	Location	CEU Information ES	AC#, Fee	/Free
March 6-10	45th Annual Management & Technical Conference	Sunriver	3.0 Water/Wastewater	TBA	Fee
March 21-22	Wastewater Treatment/Collections Certification Review	Keizer	1.4 Wastewater/0.7 Water	4227	Fee
March 23	Distribution Basics	Scappoose	0.6 Water	4117	Fee
March 28	Math for Operators	Turner	0.4 Water/Wastewater	4329	Fee
March 28	Preparing for a W System Survey & WW System Inspection	Turner	0.3 Water/Wastewater	4330	Fee
March 29	Water & Wastewater Field Operations & Safety	Turner	0.4 Water/Wastewater	4636	Fee
April 4–5	Water Treatment, Water Distribution Certification Review	Keizer	1.4 Water/0.5 Wastewater/Onsit	e TBA	Fee
April 6	W. Treatment & Dist. Level 3,4 & Filtration Endorsement	Keizer	0.6 Water	TBA	Fee
April 4	Lock Out Tag Out Operations	Turner	0.3 Water/Wastewater/Onsite	4397	Fee
April 4	Job Site Safety	Turner	0.6 Water/Wastewater/Onsite	4331	Fee
April 11	Math for Operators	Newport	0.4 Water/Wastewater	4329	Fee
April 11	Preparing for a W System Survey & WW System Inspection	Newport .	0.3 Water/Wastewater	4330	Fee
May 3	Developing Your O&M Manual	The Dalles	0.4 Water/Wastewater/0.2 Onsit	4032	Fee
May 3	W&WW Emergency Response Planning	The Dalles	0.4 Water/Wastewater	4670	Fee
May TBA	EXPO	Rickreall	0.4 Water/Wastewater	TBA	FREE
May 10	Understanding the Requirements of the WMCP	Salem	0.3 Water	4351	Fee
May 10	Leak Detection	Salem	0.2 Water/Wastewater	4396	Fee
May 24	Math for Operators	Redmond	0.4 Water/Wastewater	4329	Fee
May 24	Pumps & Pumping	Redmond	0.3 Water/Wastewater/Onsite	4395	Fee
June 6–7	Water Treatment, Water Distribution Certification Review	Salem	1.4 Water/0.5 Wastewater/Onsit	тва	Fee
June 27	Math for Operators	Hermiston	0.4 Water/Wastewater	4329	Fee
June 27	Pumps and Pumping	Hermiston	0.3 Water/Wastewater/Onsite	4395	Fee
July 25–26	Water Treatment, Water Distribution Certification Review	Redmond	1.4 Water/0.5 Wastewater/Onsit	е ТВА	Fee
August 8–9	Wastewater Treatment/Collections Certification Review	Salem	1.4 Wastewater/0.7 Water	4227	Fee
August 9	Lock Out Tag Out Operations	Bend	0.3 Water/Wastewater/Onsite	4397	Fee
August 10	Confined Space	Bend	0.3 Water/Wastewater/Onsite	4634	Fee
August 10	Hazardous Communication Standard (Global Harmonization)	Bend	0.3 Water/Wastewater	4193	Fee
August 21–24	29 th Annual Summer Classic Conference	Seaside	2.3 Water/Wastewater	TBA	Fee
September 11–14	2023 Fall Operators Conference	Florence	2.7 Water/Wastewater	TBA	Fee
September 19	Distribution Basics	Baker City	0.6 Water	4117	Fee
October 11	Distribution Basics	Lake Oswego	0.6 Water	4117	Fee
Oct. 31 – Nov. 2 November 8	Spirit Mountain Casino Operator's Conference – 2023 Confined Space & Job Site Safety Distribution Basics	Grand Ronde Eagle Point Salem	2.0 Water/Wastewater 0.6 Water/Wastewater/Onsite 0.6 Water	TBA 4331 4117	Fee Fee Fee
November 28 November 29 November 29	Developing Your Operations & Maintenance Manual Leak Detection	Saiem McMinnville McMinnville	0.6 Water 0.4 Water/Wastewater/0.2 Onsit 0.2 Water/Wastewater		Fee Fee
December 11–14	25 th Annual End of Year Operators Conference	Hood River	2.7 Water/Wastewater	TBA	Fee

Levels 1-4 Water Operator Exams

Trained and certified operators are necessary to ensure that the systems are managed in a manner that fully protects public health and the environment. The OARs for certification stipulate that the qualifying experience for applicants for certification as a water treatment plant operator must attain at least half the required operating experience at a public water purification plant that uses complex filtration technology and is not more than one classification lower than the level of certification they are seeking. In other words, if you have only worked for a Class 2 treatment plant, we allow you to apply for a Level 3 certification but not a Level 4 certification. If you move on to a Class 3 plant, then you must have ½ the qualifying experience (at the Level 3 plant) before allowing to apply for a Level 4 certification. Reciprocity from state-to-state ensures that the operator have the operating experience for which they are certified.

For additional information, please visit http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/OperatorCertification/Levels1-4/Pages/exams.aspx

Drinking Water Data Online

https://yourwater.oregon.gov

Drinking Water Services

https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/DRINKINGWATER/Pages/index.aspx

Training class dates, class topic and/or locations may be subject to change as needed.

For more information on any class by OAWU, please contact the office at 503-837-1212, office@oawu.net or visit www.oawu.net.



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- · Seconds, minutes, hours, days
- Color-coded traces

Asset Management

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- · Calendar and condition-based scheduling
- Maintenance work orders
- Easy to use

Mobile Access

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- · Access your SCADA data from anywhere at any time
- View and acknowledge alarms easily
- Easy and intuitive to use

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QUIZ CORNER -

CORRECTION

In the Fall 2022 issue, there was an error in Quiz Corner. One question asked you to calculate the flow through a filter in GPM when 1.8 million gallons flows through the filter during a 42hr run. The answer is 714GPM, but the answer key said 1,100GPM. We apologize for the error.

- 1. During confined space work, the primary reason for violation is...
 - A. Lack of training
 - B. Lack of role understanding
 - C. Training not documented
 - D. Training insufficient
- 2. Lock-Out Tag-Out programs relate to how many various forms of energy?
 - A. 8

C. 7

B. 2

- D. 4
- 3. Lock-Out Tag-Out programs relate to how many various types of energy?
 - A. 8

C. 7

B. 2

- D. 4
- 4. Municipal wastewater is comprised of what percent of water?
 - A. 80%

C. 97%

B. 90%

- D. 99.9%
- 5. What percent of homes use septic systems that may contribute to contamination?
 - A. 4%

C. 11%

B. 8%

D. 19%

- 6. Does 12.5% sodium hypochlorite have a higher or lower specific gravity than water?
 - A. Higher
 - B. Lower
 - C. The same
 - D. It has no specific gravity
- 7. To apply to take an Operator In Training or OIT exam for water certification, an applicant must have 3 months of operating experience, 3 months of water-related experience, or possess _____ CEUs of relevant water system training.
 - A. 10

C. 30

B. 3

- D. 45
- 8. Your chlorinator room should have an exhaust vent installed .
 - A. Near the ceiling
 - B. Halfway up the wall
 - C. Near the floor
 - D. In the ceiling

YN2MEK2: 1-C' 7-B' 3-Y' 4-D' 2-D' 6-Y' 2-B' 8-C

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For bids or estimates, call OAWU: 503-837-1212.



FINALLY!

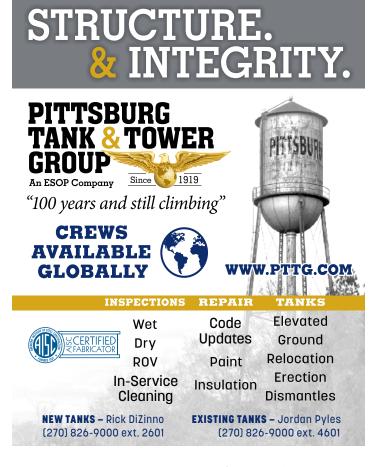
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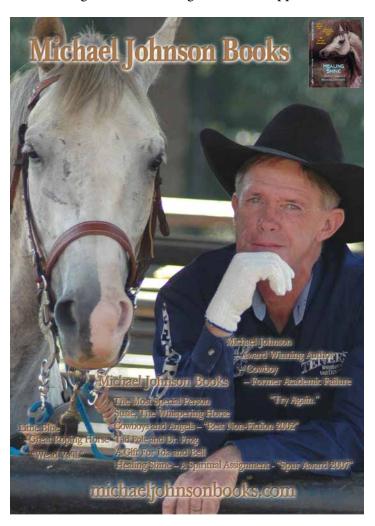
Commencement

Throwing My Loop by Michael Johnson

The word "commencement" is derived from the word "commence" which means "to begin." Yet we use the word "commencement" to describe what happens at graduation. I find that fascinating. Why would we use a word that means "to begin" at the end of something?

Much to my surprise I have been asked to provide the commencement address to this year's graduating class at the university I attended so long ago—Texas A&M University—Commerce, current enrollment of 10,000 students. When the invitation came—while I was certainly honored—I could not help but think all my old professors who are now in heaven (and all those who are not) must surely be so disappointed. "Do what?" they must have said when they heard the news. "Surely you could get somebody better than that fellow. Anybody but him."

Nevertheless, I plan to take a stab at it. Like most people, not knowing about something has never stopped me



from giving advice on the subject. So, here's what I plan to do...

At graduation ceremonies, the commencement speaker is supposed to tell all the graduating seniors—and their parents—things that are wise and funny, things that will "stick" with us as we begin our journey in life, and well, you know... things that are "smart." Even though I don't know anything wise, funny, or smart, I still plan to take a stab at it. It is a crying shame for those in attendance on that day that I could not have given this speech on the day I graduated from the university because on that day... I was smarter than I have ever been. Somehow—sadly—all that wisdom has evaporated in the last forty years, and where it went I haven't a clue. Nevertheless, I still plan to take a stab at it. What I've decided to talk about is all the things I wish the speaker at my graduation had mentioned. Something like this...

"Good morning ladies and gentlemen. To all you graduating seniors, well done. And to all you moms and dads who lived through the ordeal of getting your kid through college...even more well done! Graduates, I am really impressed and happy for you that you have received your degree. All your life your parents have told you, "Work hard, go to school, make good grades, get a college degree, get a good job...then you can be happy! When we hear that all our life and we finally do it, we cannot help but think the hard part is over. Actually, there are a few more things you have to do. Here are some wise and funny and smart things for you to consider...

You will do better in life if you learn how to interact with other human beings. I'm sure not a single one of your college professors ever mentioned that, and I am at a complete loss as to why they did not. Yet, you can really help yourself if you learn to meet people, make eye-contact, learn how to shake hands, and remember people's names. Don't say you can't remember names. If you can get a degree, you can learn how to remember names. I'm not suggesting you become a phony St. Bernard who jumps on people and slobbers all over them. We don't like people who do that. But we do like people who are authentic, genuine and sincere...and people who are kind and nice and have something you may have never heard of 'cause its kinda' out of fashion these days. Charm and manners. We are all impressed by those qualities. Develop them.

Cowboy up. That is a term we use in the rodeo world that means when you get bucked off—when you are high in the air and about to land on your back in the middle of the arena in front of all those people—start making plans to get up before you ever hit the ground. That is the most important skill you can develop—and you better develop it. Because no matter how high your grade point average is, no matter how perfectly you have lived so far...once in a while, life is still gonna kick you right in the teeth. Might be the loss of a loved one, death of a good roping horse, fire, tornado, broken heart, or divorce—whatever it is, there will come a time when life hurts so bad, you cannot breathe. Unfortunately, at these times you will find that your college degree does not help one bit. I have never found anything that does. If you do, call me collect.

Well, maybe I have found one thing that does. And that is, to remember when things go bad...cowboy up. Hang on. To remember we are stronger than we think. We are more than we know. We have not been short-changed by the Spirit. Let some time pass. You will laugh and dance again.

Finally, remember what Anne Frank wrote—that 14-year old girl hiding in the attic from the Nazis:

"In the long run, the most powerful weapon of all is a kind and gentle spirit."

In your life you will find nothing works better with children, with horses, or with the person you are married to. Best thing I ever read.

So that's about it. That's all the wise, funny, smart things I have to say. Commencement is not the end. It's just the beginning.

I simply cannot believe they allowed someone like me to come and talk to all of you. I'm grateful.

I wish you well.

Be sure and thank your momma and your daddy for this day.

God help you. I know He did me. •

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To join or for more information, visit www.oawu.net or call 503-837-1212.

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2023 OREGON ASSOCIATION OF WATER UTILITIES

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Member Name:		Membership Types		
Mailing Address:		Regular Member		
City/State: ZIP:		A Regular Member shall be any water or wastewater utility, public or private, engaged in the production, distribution or reclamation of water. A Regular Member shall have one vote. Annual Dues: See Regular Member Dues Schedule		
		Associate Member		
Email: Phone: Contact Person:		An Associate Member shall be any organization, individual or corporation, supplying services or equipment to water and wastewater utilities. An Associate Member shall have one vote. Annual Dues \$500.00 per year		
Number of Hook-ups:		Individual Member		
Were you referred? By whom		An Individual Member shall be an individual involved in the water/wastewater industry or a user of such utilities. The		
Type of System:		membership is informational in nature and shall be non-voting.		
☐ Water ☐ Wa	stewater	Annual Dues \$100.00 per year		
Membership Category Membership Dues		Benefits of Membership		
☐ Regular Member	\$ See schedule below	 On-site technical assistance Various free training programs 		
☐ Associate Member	\$550.00	• Discounts on training courses		
☐ Individual Member	s \$100.00	• Discounts on Annual Conference registration		
Regular Member Dues Schedule		Access to on-site training programSubscription to quarterly H2Oregon magazine		
1 to 100	\$75 + 45 cents per connection	 Direct mailings about upcoming training courses in your area 		
101 to 500	\$85 + 45 cents per connection	• Summaries of legislative issues		
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Pl OAMAIL		Well testing, plan review, rate studies, WMCP plans		
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1	ndependence, OR 97351	Additional programs and services		
or email: office@oawu.net or fax: 503-837-1213		According programs and services		

MB23

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Alfalfa Water LLC

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Amity, City of

Ananda Center at Laurelwood, Inc. Arch Cape Water & Sanitary District

Arlington, City of

Arrah Wanna Water Company Arrowhead Mobile Home Park Aspen Lakes Utility Company, L.L.C.

Astoria, City of Athena, City of Aumsville, City of Aurora, City of Avion Water Company Baker City, City of Bandon Dunes Resort Bandon, City of

Barlow Water Improvement District

Barlow, City of Bay City, City of

Banks, City of

Bay Hills Water Association

Bayou Water Improvement District

Beaver Water District Beaverton, City of Bend Research Inc. Bend, City of

Benton County Service District Bents Court Water Co. Berndt Creek Water Corp. Beverly Beach Water District Biggs Service District

Black Butte Ranch

Black Mountain Water District Blue River Water District Blue Spruce Estates

Bly Water & Sanitary Dist. Boardman, City of Bonanza, Town of

Boring Water District #24 Brandy Bar Landing, Inc. Breitenbush Hot Springs Bridge Water District Brightwood Water Works

Brooks Community Service District

Brownsville, City of

Buell-Red Prairie Water District Bunns Village Properties, LLC Burlington Water District

Burns, City of

Burnside Water Association

Butte Falls, Town of Camp Baker BSA Camp Rilea Canby, City of Canby Utility

Cannon Beach, City of Cannon View Park, Inc. Canyon City, Town of Canyonville, City of

Carlton, City of Cascade Locks, City of Cave Junction, City of

Cedarhurst Improvement Club, Inc. Central Coast Clean Water Company Century Meadows Sanitary System, Inc. Century Meadows Water System, Inc.

Charles Tracts Water Company Chart Water Supply, Inc.

Chehalem Mt. Sun Ridge Association

Chenowith Water PUD Chiloquin, City of

CHR Dist. Improvement Co. Christmas Valley Domestic Water Cimmarron City Water Co., Inc. Circle C Improvement Dist. Clarks Branch Water Association

Clatskanie, City of

Clayton Creek Water Association

Clean Water Services Cline Falls MHP

Cloverdale Sanitary District Cloverdale Water District

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Columbia Hills Homeowners Association

Columbia River PUD Condon, City of Coquille, City of Corbett Water District Cornelius, City of Corvallis Waldorf School Cottage Grove, City of Country Club Water District Country View Mobile Estates Covanta Marion, Inc.

Cove Orchard Water Association

Cove, City of

Crater Lake National Park Crescent Sanitary District

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Dundee, City of Eagle Point, City of

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Emerald Meadows HOA Emerald Valley Wastewater Co.

Enterprise, City of

Estacada, City of

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Fall Creek Water District Falls City, City of

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Fernridge Mobile Estates

Fir Grove HOA Fir View Water Company

Fishhawk Lake Recreation Club, Inc.

Florence, City of Forest Park Mobile Village

Fossil, City of

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Glenmorrie Co-op Association Glide Water Association Goble Water Association Gold Beach, City of Gold Hill, City of

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