



RURAL WATER EXPO 2026

APRIL 21-22, 2026

RAMKOTA HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER • 2111 N. LACROSSE STREET • RAPID CITY, SD

TUESDAY

7:30 AM REGISTRATION OPEN • EXHIBIT HALL OPEN

8:00 AM Welcome, Agenda Review

8:15 AM Tank Maintenance

– *Chad Edwards, Maguire*

Water towers and elevated storage tanks are major infrastructure investments that require proactive care. Chad Edwards of Maguire will share practical maintenance strategies for protecting tank sites, foundations, grout, and anchor systems, along with tips for spotting early warning signs. Learn how preventative maintenance can extend tank life, improve reliability, and help avoid costly repairs.

9:00 AM Water Pressure Monitoring & Management

– *Chris Carlisle, Clow Valve*

Discover how iHydrant technology transforms a standard fire hydrant into a powerful monitoring tool for water systems. Integrated sensors provide accurate, year-round data on pressure and temperature directly from inside the water main. Operators will see how real-time alerts and dashboard reporting make it possible to quickly identify pressure spikes, water hammer events, and potential main breaks through instant email and text notifications – helping systems respond faster and protect infrastructure.

9:45 AM REFRESHMENT BREAK • VISIT EXHIBITS

– **REFRESHMENTS SPONSORED BY ISCO**

10:15 AM Sewage Lift Station Maintenance and Dealing with Flushable Wipes

– *Patrick Schmitt, Electric Pump*

Keeping lift stations running smoothly requires both mechanical know-how and practical troubleshooting skills. This session explores common operational challenges, including the growing problem of

“flushable” wipes. Participants will review effective pump maintenance strategies, electrical and mechanical troubleshooting techniques, and practical approaches to keeping lift stations reliable and efficient. Valuable insights are offered for both new operators and seasoned professionals.

11:00 AM Leak Detection: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
– *Michael Sims, California Rural Water Association*

Water loss can occur in many forms – some obvious and others hidden deep within the system. Learn how leaks develop, why they occur, and how proactive leak detection programs can save time, water, and money. The session also introduces modern detection tools and survey techniques, including zone measurements, acoustic listening methods, and pinpointing strategies that help operators locate leaks more quickly and accurately.

12:00 PM LUNCH BUFFET • VISIT EXHIBITS

(Dry Rubbed BBQ Chicken, Garden Salad, Potato Salad, Beans, Corn, Cole Slaw, Rolls)

1:00 PM Peristaltic Pump Installation, Maintenance, and Pump Selection

– *Dodie Doyle, Stenner Pumps*

Peristaltic pumps play an important role in many water and wastewater operations. Through an interactive discussion, operators will gain practical knowledge on proper installation, operation, and routine maintenance to keep pumps performing reliably. Topics include tube replacement, inspection techniques, troubleshooting methods, and selecting the right pump based on chemical compatibility, flow needs, and system pressure requirements.

1:45 PM Locating and Mapping 101

– *Evan Beran, Subsurface Solutions*

Accurately locating underground utilities is critical for both safety and system management. This introductory

session explains how electromagnetic locating works and how environmental conditions can affect signals in the field. Participants will also explore how GPS tools can capture precise utility locations and strengthen documentation practices – improving the accuracy and quality of system mapping.

2:45 PM REFRESHMENT BREAK • VISIT EXHIBITS
– REFRESHMENTS SPONSORED BY ISG

3:00 PM A Statistical Method for Developing Service Line Inventories
– *Jared Huibregtse, Bartlett & West*

SD DANR has introduced a statistical approach that can significantly reduce the number of “Unknown” service lines within a system’s inventory. This session explains how the method works and how eligible systems may avoid physically verifying every unknown service line. Operators will learn how statistical sampling can streamline inventory development while still meeting regulatory requirements.

3:45 PM Laboratory Sampling Standards & Best Practices
– *Dean Aurand, Midco Laboratories*

Accurate water testing begins with proper sampling. This session reviews essential laboratory standards and the fundamentals of collecting reliable water samples. Topics include correct sampling procedures, documentation and chain-of-custody requirements, preservation techniques, and selecting appropriate sampling locations. Operators will also receive guidance on perchlorate sampling requirements and best practices.

4:30 PM Western Dakota Regional Water System: Planning for Western South Dakota Water Security
– *Cory Chorne, Kristin Conzet, and Piper Kocina, Western Dakota Regional Water System*

Western South Dakota faces growing water supply challenges as population growth, tourism, and recurring drought continue to increase demand. This session explores the ongoing development of the Western Dakota Regional Water System, including feasibility studies, supply analysis, conceptual system design, and financial planning. Attendees will learn how regional collaboration and a Missouri River–based supplemental supply could strengthen long-term water reliability for the Black Hills region.

WEDNESDAY

7:30 AM REGISTRATION OPEN
EXHIBIT HALL & BREAKFAST BUFFET
– **BREAKFAST SPONSORED BY: HAWKINS, NORTHWEST PIPE, AND CORE & MAIN**

(Scrambled Eggs w/Peppers & Onions, Cheese, Salsa, Smoked Ham, Breakfast Potatoes, Fruit, and Croissants)

8:00 AM From the Main to the Drain: PVC Pipe Explained
– *Doug Kilanowski & Tate Goeden, Northern Pipe Products*

Water distribution has evolved dramatically – from ancient aqueducts to modern PVC systems. Northern Pipe Products shares how PVC pressure and sewer pipe technology fits into today’s water infrastructure. The session includes an overview of NPP’s certified product lines, along with practical installation tips and OSHA-compliant trench safety practices that help ensure long-lasting system performance.

8:45 AM Troubleshooting Gas Chlorination Systems: Why Doesn’t It Feed Chlorine?
– *Al Hansen, Hawkins*

Operators will work through real-world chlorination challenges during this hands-on troubleshooting session. Using a live gas chlorination setup, participants will observe proper vacuum operation and diagnose common problems, including feed failures, loss of residual, and water intrusion. The session builds confidence in identifying issues, communicating effectively with suppliers, or performing minor service to keep systems operating properly.

9:30 AM BREAK - VISIT EXHIBITS

10:00 AM Fire Hydrants & Gate Valves: From History to Code
– *Josh Lindsey, American AVK*

Explore how fire hydrants and gate valves have evolved alongside national standards and industry best practices. This session reviews AWWA and NRW standards and covers configurations, installation considerations, safety, and routine maintenance. Operators will also learn practical repair techniques such as replacing main valves, installing traffic repair kits, repacking gland flanges, and changing bonnet assemblies.

10:45 AM Economic Development and Water Infrastructure
– *Casey Crabtree, Heartland Energy*

Reliable water infrastructure is one of the most important foundations for economic growth. Casey Crabtree, Economic Development Director for Heartland Energy and District 8 State Senator, will discuss how water systems support community development across South Dakota. The session highlights the importance of communication between water utilities and economic development leaders to ensure communities are prepared for growth while maintaining dependable service.

11:30 AM DOOR PRIZES - MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO
SEE OUR UPCOMING EVENTS**

