



2026 CONFERENCE AGENDA



Sunday, October 25, 2026		
Start	Finish	
8:00 AM	11:00 AM	NOWRA Board of Directors Meeting, Lakehouse
12:00 PM	5:30 PM	Registration Open, Registration Desk
12:00 PM	5:00 PM	Emerging Professionals Scholarship Cornhole Tournament, Lakehouse - Optional
12:00 PM	5:00 PM	Exhibitor Move-In, Legacy Ballroom
6:00 PM	8:00 PM	Welcome Reception, TBD
Monday Morning, October 26, 2026		
7:00 AM	5:00 PM	Registration Open, TBD
7:15 AM	8:00 AM	BOG/Government Relations Committee, TBD
7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Light Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Hall
7:00 AM	6:00 PM	Exhibit Hall, Legacy Ballroom
Opening General Session 1		
Room		Westminster III & IV
8:00 AM	8:20 AM	Conference Welcome <i>Colorado Political Welcome (tent)</i> <i>President, CPOW; President, NAWT; President, SORA; and Chris LeClair, President, NOWRA</i>
8:20 AM	9:10 AM	<i>An International Perspective on Onsite Systems - Dr. Yurie Shirakawa, Japan</i>
9:10 AM	10:00 AM	<i>Next Steps in Onsite Wastewater Research Findings - Dr. Bryan Brooks, Baylor University</i>
10:00 AM	10:30 AM	Break in Exhibit Hall
10:30 AM	11:00 AM	US EPA Update - Andrew Sawyers (invited)
11:00 AM	11:30 AM	Status of Advocacy/Lobbying Efforts on Behalf of Onsite and Decentralized Wastewater, Tim Perrin and Marissa Campbell, The Southern Group
11:30 AM	12:00 PM	NOWRA Announcements and Setting the Stage, Chris LeClair, NOWRA President

2026 MEGA-CONFERENCE AGENDA

Monday Afternoon, October 26, 2026

12:00 PM	1:30 PM	Lunch Provided, TBD Poster Presentations					
12:00 PM	1:30 PM	Backhoe Roe-D-Hoe, Patio					
12:00 PM	1:30 PM	State Affiliate Leader Meeting, TBD					
12:00 PM	1:30 PM	SORA Business Meeting, TBD					
Track Topic		Cesspools	Microbial	Workforce	State	NAWT 1	Vendor Training
Track Number		1	2	3	4	5	Vendor A
Room		WB I	WB II	Meadowbrook	Cotton Creek	Standley	TBD
Start	Finish						
1:30 PM	2:15 PM	Subtractive Geographic Analysis for Determining Possible Cesspool Locations in Rural and Semi-Rural Communities -Moreno & Dominguez	Performance and Feasibility of Tidal-Flow Constructed Wetlands for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment -Pal & Broer	Surfing the Silver Tsunami with Work 4 Water: Elevating Hawai'i's Wastewater Workforce from Ridge to Reef -Saba	State Panel 1 (topic TBD) -Trantham	You Got Through Year 1.... Now What? -Turner	1:30 - 1:50 PM VT A1 - Tuf Tite ++++ 1:55 - 2:15 PM VT A2
2:15 PM	3:00 PM	Identifying Onsite Solutions for a Remote Community in Hawai'i: A Community-Centered Approach to Navigating a Complex Wastewater Challenge -Falinski, Saba, & Crawford	Assessing Microbial Indicator Transport in Onsite Wastewater Mound Systems -Joseph & Maxcy-Brown	Lead to Attract, Retain, and Inspire: Creating a Culture Where People Want to Stay and Thrive -Suson	State Panel 2: Development & History of CPOW Education Program -Carney & Nicoll	From Technician to CEO: The 16 Year Breakthrough That Built a Multi-Million Dollar Service Company -Birdsong	2:15 - 2:35 PM VT A3 - Norweco ++++ 2:40 - 3:00 PM VT A4
3:00 PM	3:45 PM	Break in Exhibit Hall, Poster Presentations Backhoe Roe-D-Hoe, Patio					
3:45 PM	4:30 PM	What's SEP? An Effective Tool to Help Finance Cesspool Conversions -Coleman	Modular Biofilters with Iron-mediated Nitrogen Removal for Onsite Wastewater Treatment -Wang	Conflict to Compliance: Streamlining Final Inspections in South Carolina's OSWW Program -Hayes	New NOWRA Educational Resources -Heger	OWTS Inspection Process for Regulators -Carney	3:45 - 4:05 PM VT A5 - JNM ++++ 4:10 - 4:30 PM VT A6
4:30 PM	6:00 PM	Reception in Exhibit Hall featuring EP Cornhole Tournament Finals & Backhoe Roe-D-Hoe Poster Presentations					
6:30 PM	9:30 PM	OPTIONAL: Off-Site Social Event Tom's Watch Bar, Denver - Preregistration Required Bus Transportation Provided					

2026 MEGA-CONFERENCE AGENDA

Tuesday Morning, October 27, 2026

7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Light Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Hall					
7:00 AM	1:00 PM	Exhibit Hall Open, Legacy Ballroom					
7:00 AM	4:30 PM	Registration Open, TBD					
Track Topic		International/National	Soil	Education & Testing	Technical	NAWT 2/Emerging	Vendor Training
Track Number		6	7	8	9	10	Vendor B
Room		WB I	WB II	Meadowbrook	Cotton Creek	Standley	TBD
Start	Finish						
8:00 AM	8:45 AM	O & M Case Study in Japan and in Asian Countries -Shirakawa	Efficacy of a Calcium Additive in Sodified Vertisol Soil from the Alabama Black Belt -Bebbington	In Development: New Regulatory Professional Training Course -Blodig, Cousino, & Tate	Methodology for Quantitative Cumulative Effects Assessment of Onsite Wastewater Systems -Manwell	Challenges of Short Term Rentals (STR) Serviced by OWTS and How to Manage Them -Tatro	8:00 - 8:20 AM VT B1 - Roth +++++ 8:25 - 8:45 AM VT B2 - Roth
8:45 AM	9:30 AM	EPA's Decentralized Wastewater Program Update -Faller	Best Practice Treament Designs and Installations for Sodic Soils -Kele	Training the Regulatory Workforce -Powell	High Strength Wastewater: Design, Results, and Lessons Learned -Ervin	From Crisis to Capacity: A Case Study in Building a Private Septage Disposal System -Jouvenaux	8:45 - 9:05 AM VT B3 - American Manuf +++++ 9:10 - 9:30 AM VT B4
9:30 AM	10:15 AM	Closing America's Wastewater Gap Initiative Update -Mezzacapo	Peak Challenges with Practical Solutions: Higher Level Treatment on a Steep Rocky Mountain Site -Gustavson, Godi, & Doone	Real Estate Professionals as a Key Audience for Onsite Wastewater Education -Wassel, Halbrook, & Hawkins	Troubleshooting Treatment Processes for Optimum Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations -Lesikar	From Crisis to Capacity: Building Sustainable Septage Disposal Solutions Before your Community Runs out of Options -Birdsong	9:30 - 9:50 AM VT B5 - Hiblow +++++ 9:55 - 10:15 AM VT B6
10:15 AM	10:45 AM	Break and Poster Presentations in Exhibit Hall Backhoe Roe-D-Hoe, Patio					
10:45 AM	11:30 AM	Challenges and Opportunities with Rural and Off-Grid Onsite System -Wirth & Yarosh	Coupling Laboratory Experiments with In Situ Investigations for the Recognition of a New On Site Sanitation Technique Case of the Optimized Vertical Sand Filter -Lakel & Decout	Evaluation of Negative Health Outcomes Associated with Soil Auger Use by Environmental Professionals -Humphrey	Pre-Backfill Digital Twin Documentation for Maintenance and Inspection -Grein	What Should Be Key Learning Outcomes for Universities Preparing Students to Become Onsite Professionals? -Munakata Marr	10:45 - 11:05 AM VT B7 - Anua +++++ 11:10 - 11:30 AM VT B8
11:30 AM	12:15 PM	Closing the Wastewater Access Gap Forever: A National Roadmap to Bring Water and Sanitation to Every Community in the United States -Thatte, Thompson, & Forbis-Stokes	Quantifying Soil Suitability and Affordability of Septic Systems using Alabama State-Specific Analysis -Etter & Maxy-Brown	Reviewing Proprietary Aerobic Treatment Units Testing Data During NSF Standard 40 Tests -Blount	Improving Permitting Efficiency with GPS/GIS: South Carolina's Selection and Deployment of a Statewide Solution -Poston & Hayes	Panel Discussion: Emerging Professionals in the Onsite Industry -Kaiser & Donnelly	11:30 - 11:50 AM VT B9 - Eljen Corp +++++ 11:55 - 12:15 PM VT B10

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Tuesday Afternoon, October 27, 2026

12:15 PM	1:30 PM	Lunch Provided, TBD, Poster Presentations in Exhibit Hall Backhoe Roe-D-Hoe Finals, Patio					
12:15 PM	1:30 PM	Technical Practices Committee Meeting, TBD					
12:15 PM	1:30 PM	Emerging Professionals Meet and Greet Meeting, TBD					
1:30 PM	6:00 PM	Exhibitor Move-Out					
Track Topic		Looking Ahead	O&M	General Design	Technology	Financial	Vendor Training
Track Number		11	12	13	14	15	Vendor C
Room		WB I	WB II	Meadowbrook	Cotton Creek	Standley	TBD
Start	Finish						
1:30 PM	2:15 PM	ICC 825 and the Future of Onsite Wastewater Treatment: Global Collaboration and Public Health Impact -May & Deland	Best Practices for Wastewater Management in Community Developments -Sundberg	Honu Hub - An Adaptive Decentralized Wastewater Infrastructure Solution (ADWIS) for Island Communities -Bair & Yeh	Designing Advanced Treatment Systems to Perform at High Elevations -Sherman	Asset Management as a Business Approach to OWTS Service -Lesikar	1:30 - 1:50 PM VT C1 ++++ 1:55 - 2:15 PM VT C2
2:15 PM	3:00 PM	Are We There Yet? Vermont's Experience with Time of Travel for Siting Onsite Wastewater Systems -Douglas	Picking Up The Pieces - Restoring a Failed Small Community Wastewater System -Buchanan	Design Considerations for RV Parks and Campgrounds -MacConnell	Utilizing Technology to Modernize a Septic Program -Morris	From Google to AI: How Homeowners Are Choosing and Communicating with Septic Contractors -Andreasen	2:15 - 2:35 PM VT C3 ++++ 2:40 - 3:00 PM VT C4
3:00 PM	3:15 PM	Break, TBD					
3:15 PM	4:00 PM	Virginia Septic and Well Assistance Program: Rural Roots and Healthy Futures -Sandberg	Installation of Resilient Electrical Systems -Lesikar	Septic Tanks - Bigger is Better! -Heger	Liquid Only Sewer: Protecting the World's Water Through Scaleable Wastewater Infrastructure -Kunz	Helping Business Owners Protect Their Legacy & Exit Successfully -Ramirez	3:15 - 3:35 PM VT C5 ++++ 3:40 - 4:00 PM VT C6
4:00 PM	4:45 PM	A Blueprint for Watershed Resource Protection Through Community Scale Integrated Infrastructure Management -Dowling & Cox	From Sample to Report: Making Sense of Wastewater Data -Faz-Cresie	Snow & Rain: Design Differences Between On-Site Systems in the Icy Cold and West Tropics -Kele & Heger	UPC Compliant Solid Waste Interceptor as a Septic Alternative -Roberts	10-Year Anniversary Statewide OSS Loan Program: Successes and Lessons Learned -Cowles	4:00 - 4:20 PM VT C7 ++++ 4:25 - 4:45 PM VT C8
5:00 PM	6:30 PM	NOWRA Annual Business Meeting & Reception, TBD					
6:30 PM	8:30 PM	SORA Reception (<i>invitation only</i>), TBD					
6:30 PM	8:30 PM	Emerging Professionals Social and Reception, TBD					
		Regular Mega-Conference Concludes					

2026 MEGA-CONFERENCE AGENDA

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

7:00 AM	8:15 AM	Registration, TBD Light Continental Breakfast, TBD		
9:00 AM	12:00 PM	NOWRA State Affiliate USDA Grant Meeting, TBD		
Track Topic		Field Trip #1	Field Trip #2	Vac Truck Training
Room				TBD
8:30 AM	5:00 PM	Optional Field Trip 1 Boarding at 8:15 AM Box Lunch Provided	Optional Field Trip 2 Boarding at 8:15 AM Box Lunch Provided	NAWT Sponsored Vac Truck classroom training and parking lot visit. Approx. 40 attendees Classroom style



Conference Concludes - See you next year in Columbus, Georgia!
October 17 - 20, 2027