



Sandi Miller, Executive Director (Editor)  
Leslie Miller, Office Assistant

## Missouri Water and Wastewater Conference

P.O. Box 14170  
Springfield, MO 65814  
Telephone: 573/657-0266  
[sandi.miller@mwwc.net](mailto:sandi.miller@mwwc.net) [leslie@mwwc.net](mailto:leslie@mwwc.net)  
[www.mwwc.net](http://www.mwwc.net)

# MWWC MAIN LINES

## Training News and Information of the Missouri Water & Wastewater Conference and Its Six Regional Sections

ISSUE 121

PRE-SECTION MEETING EDITION

February 2024 – No. 1

---

### 2024 MWWC Section Meetings at a Glance

#### East Central Section (St. Peters)

Thursday, May 16

Contact: Shelley Lane [shelley.lane@amwater.com](mailto:shelley.lane@amwater.com) Cell: 314/365-3009 Work: 314/548-0199

#### Midwest Section (Columbia)

Thursday, May 2

Contact: Dean Bryant [dean.bryant@como.gov](mailto:dean.bryant@como.gov) Cell: 573/639-6293 Work: 573/874-6282

#### Northeast Section (Macon)

Tuesday, April 9

Contact: Ginny Ismay [gismay@windjammercable.net](mailto:gismay@windjammercable.net)

#### Northwest Section (St. Joseph)

Thursday, April 4

Contact: Michele Alwood [mallwood64469@yahoo.com](mailto:mallwood64469@yahoo.com) Cell: 816/449-0490 Work: 816/449-2185

#### Southeast Section (Cape Girardeau)

Thursday, April 25

Contact: Blake Kiefner [bkiefner@cityofcapegirardeau.org](mailto:bkiefner@cityofcapegirardeau.org) Work: 573/271-1742

#### Southwest Section (Springfield)

Tuesday, May 7

Contact: Lindsay Bein [lbein@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:lbein@springfieldmo.gov) Cell: 479-876-3833 Work: 417/864-1544

## Chairman Verlon W Persinger's Address to The Membership

### *Where Do We Go from Here?*

### **What does the future of the MWWC look like?**

First of all, I want to state that Sandi is not riding off into the sunset anytime in the immediate future. She has, however, notified the Board that her retirement is on the horizon. I want to start off by officially thanking Sandi Miller, MWWC's Executive Director, for her many years of dedicated leadership to the MWWC and for continuing the work of Bob Miller. Sandi, Bob, and many others throughout the years have dedicated themselves to serving the training needs of water and wastewater operators. As we look to the future, the primary goal is to continue the tradition of the MWWC as the operator's training organization.

Change is not a bad thing; in fact, it is inevitable as everyone is subject to not having shared ownership in the proverbial *Foundation of Youth*. As I sit here writing this address, I too must admit that I have a set date in mind for taking leave and "riding off into the sunset." Therefore, personally, I am working on a progression plan for myself as Division Manager for Alliance Water Resources. My plan includes training my direct reports with the knowledge required to perform their duties to the best of their ability. I am also sharing what it might be for them to step up as the next Division Manager when I reach my preset retirement date sometime in the future. That same process will be required as the Board of Directors looks to guide the MWWC into the future.

The Board is looking at all possible avenues and scenarios including but not limited to hiring a new executive director or entering into an agreement with an outside firm to oversee the operations of the MWWC and provide needed support in the areas that Sandi currently over sees.

Many of you might hear discussions from various members on the process that the Board is looking into and to that end, I would welcome your input on your thoughts and concerns. I will make sure to provide your comments to the Board of Directors as we venture into the unknown realms of leadership as the Board tries to answer the questions of *Where Do We Go from Here* and *What will the MWWC look like in the future*.

Finally, I again want to send out a B-I-G shout-out to Sandi and Leslie as they keep the organization running, coordinate with MDNR and instructors to provide operator training, and are looking out for the future of the MWWC organization. Thank you both, Sandi and Leslie, for what you have done and continue to do.

As a last thought, please consider serving your sections as officers and/or on planning committees and even serving on the State Board if your time and dedication allows. Thanks to each of you for what you do daily to keep your communities safe.

Verlon W. Persinger, MWWC Chairman

vpersinger@alliancewater.com

## Membership Cards

We are no longer issuing membership cards. To request a certification of membership please contact Leslie at [leslie@mwwc.net](mailto:leslie@mwwc.net)

### Concerning Section Meetings:

- **Section Meeting Registrations Forms and Agendas** either are or will be posted to our website when they become available.
- **Before making your payment for registration to the section**, *please check your membership status* by calling 573/657-0266. Membership dues are payable to MWWC, P.O. Box 14170, Springfield, MO 65814
- **Pay Section Meeting Registration Fees to the section whose meeting you are registering.** That address should be on their registration form.
- **Vouchers:** If applicable for the Section Meeting(s) you are registering for, DNR Vouchers must be filled out in #2 lead pencil and mailed or hand-delivered to the section meeting that you attend.

## ***2024 Annual Meeting: Technical Program and Vendor Show*** ***Operators Matter – Expect Perfection***

Wednesday, September 18, 2024  
Columbia, MO 65201

**Technical Program:** If you are interested in presenting on the technical program, please fill out the *Call For Presenters* form that is posted on our website, [www.mwwc.net](http://www.mwwc.net) and submit it, along with a short speaker bio, and your slides to [sandi.miller@mwwc.net](mailto:sandi.miller@mwwc.net) on before May 1, 2024.

**Exhibit Space** Details about vendor registration is posted on our website, [www.mwwc.net](http://www.mwwc.net) and has been distributed by email.

### **Designated Operator/Vendor Interaction Times:**

07:30 a.m. – 08:30 a.m.	Full Hot Bob Evans Breakfast
10:30 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.	Break – Refreshments & Door Prizes Sign-ups
11:55 a.m. – 12:35 p.m.	Lunch Catered by Nolan’s Catering, Door Prize Sign-ups Continue
01:35 p.m. – 02:00 p.m.	Break – Refreshments & Operators Claim Vendor Door Prizes

*Times and details are tentative and are subject to change according to availability and MWWC’s need.*

## Awards & Recognitions

If you know someone that deserves to be recognized by the MWWC, please contact Sandi Miller at 573.657-0266 or [sandi.miller@mwwc.net](mailto:sandi.miller@mwwc.net). Awards and recognitions are available on both the state and section levels of the MWWC.

### Guidelines for Making MWWC Award Nominations

Nominations for MWWC awards are accepted at any time through the central office in Jefferson City. Members, employers, section officers, or board members can nominate the names of MWWC members who they view as being deserving of the recognition of the Missouri Water and Wastewater Conference. Nomination forms are available through the central office and should be completed, as accurately as possible, and submitted with a letter stating why the nominee is worthy of recognition.

Specific requirements per award are as follows:

- 1) **W. Victor Weir** – The water or wastewater operator must have contributed in keeping with the attributes embodied in the commemorative award. The recipient of the award is selected by the award committee and is recognized with a plaque at the annual meeting.
- 2) **David L. Williams Award of Merit** – Any water or wastewater works operator, superintendent, or person directly connected with the operation of such plants or distribution systems who holds an active member status in the conference is eligible for nomination. The nominee must possess exemplary leadership in the field of water and/or wastewater practice, operation, and inspiring loyalty and devotion to the citizens of the community. The recipient of the award is selected by the award committee and is recognized with a plaque at the annual meeting.
- 3) **Robert S. Miller Award** – The nominee must be a member of the MWWC for not less than 10 years. The nominee shall exemplify outstanding devotion, dedication, loyalty, leadership, and exceptional service not only to the water and wastewater industry, but also to the Water and Wastewater Conference. Only one award is given at the annual meeting.
- 4) **A. V. Graf Chairman's Award of Appreciation** – This award is given in appreciation for involvement in the MWWC and service to its members. The nominee shall have exhibited efforts to raise the standards of treatment and practice of the water works art. Only those who have been a member for 10 years or more are eligible. This award is given out annually.
- 5) **John E. Betz Outstanding Trainer's Award** -- The award is given in recognition of the recipient's knowledge and skills of water treatment, wastewater treatment and/or water distribution and his or her ability to convey that information to operators in a professional yet personable manner.
- 6) **Special Service Awards/Awards of Appreciation** – May be given in recognition of acts of leadership or service to the MWWC. 7) **Young Professionals Recognition** – This award is given to water/wastewater professionals age 30 and younger in recognition of their work in the field.

**Widow demands answer after on-the job death** (video)

<https://api.criticalmention.com/app/#/clip/slim/10210624-e28a-4c24-b5cb-eed31e10f60f>

WFAA-TV Dallas (Texas)

January 26, 2024

# February Training Opportunities

For more information about the following classes, visit the training program page of our website, [www.mwwc.net](http://www.mwwc.net)

<b>February 13, 2024</b>	Backflow and Water Quality
<b>February 21, 2024</b>	Operating Small Community and Non-Community Water Systems
<b>February 22, 2024</b>	Trenching and Confined Space and Jobsite Safety Review
<b>February 29, 2024</b>	Well Construction & Operation, Guidelines for Operating Small Water and Wastewater Systems

## Interested In Serving on MWWC's State Board?

If your answer to that question is "Yes" and your time and dedication allows for it, please contact Sandi Miller or any of the board members.

## MWWC Board Members

### Voting Board Members:

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Verlon Persinger</b>	<b><a href="mailto:vpersinger@alliancewater.com">vpersinger@alliancewater.com</a></b>	<b>Alliance Water Resources</b>
<b>Vice Chair</b>	<b>Archie Hendren</b>	<b><a href="mailto:archie.hendren@como.gov">archie.hendren@como.gov</a></b>	<b>City of Columbia</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Curtis Hedrick</b>	<b><a href="mailto:superu@tarkio.net">superu@tarkio.net</a></b>	<b>City of Tarkio</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Mike McMillian</b>	<b><a href="mailto:mmcmillian@alliancewater.com">mmcmillian@alliancewater.com</a></b>	<b>Alliance Water Resources</b>
<b>Immed. Past Chair</b>	<b>Floyd (Jr.) Shell</b>	<b><a href="mailto:floydshelljr@gmail.com">floydshelljr@gmail.com</a></b>	<b>Retired/Fredericktown</b>
<b>Brd Mbr Emeritus</b>	<b>Ken Hogan</b>	<b><a href="mailto:kenh157@aol.com">kenh157@aol.com</a></b>	<b>Retired/St. Louis</b>
<b>EC Board Rep</b>	<b>Shelley Lane</b>	<b><a href="mailto:Shelley.Lane@amwater.com">Shelley.Lane@amwater.com</a></b>	<b>American Water</b>
<b>MW Board Rep</b>	<b>Rodney Slayton</b>	<b><a href="mailto:rodney.slayton@como.gov">rodney.slayton@como.gov</a></b>	<b>City of Columbia</b>
<b>NE Board Rep</b>	<b>Matt Everts</b>	<b><a href="mailto:meverts@cityofmoberly.com">meverts@cityofmoberly.com</a></b>	<b>City of Moberly</b>
<b>NW Board Rep</b>	<b>John Brown</b>	<b><a href="mailto:cityoffairfax@fairfaxmo.net">cityoffairfax@fairfaxmo.net</a></b>	<b>City of Fairfax</b>
<b>SE Board Rep</b>	<b>Allen Taylor</b>	<b><a href="mailto:gascollector@yahoo.com">gascollector@yahoo.com</a></b>	<b>Retired/Cape Girardeau</b>
<b>SW Board Rep</b>	<b>John Waitman</b>	<b><a href="mailto:jwaitman@springfieldmo.gov">jwaitman@springfieldmo.gov</a></b>	<b>City of Springfield</b>

### Voting Board Members:

<b>Honorary Brd Mber</b>	<b>John Betz</b>	<b><a href="mailto:johnbetz68@gmail.com">johnbetz68@gmail.com</a></b>	<b>Retired/Columbia</b>
<b>Honorary Brd Mber</b>	<b>Tony Lamb</b>	<b><a href="mailto:tonylamb@outlook.com">tonylamb@outlook.com</a></b>	<b>City of Fulton</b>

# SAFE DRIVING REVIEW

SEE MORE INFORMATION AT [WWW.MEM-INS.COM](http://WWW.MEM-INS.COM)

Vehicle crashes are the most common cause of work-related deaths in the United States. Water-wastewater employees many miles on Missouri's interstates & rural roads. Work-related crashes are costly in employees, trucks, and treatment costs. Lost workday crash injuries average \$100,000! Distracted driving, excessive speed, no seat belt use, impairment, and fatigue are contributing factors to vehicle crash. Please review this document with your crews and encourage them to stay focused and situationally aware!

- Wear your seat belt. Your seat belt protects you in a truck crash and keeps you seated and in control.
- All riders in the truck must be seated and belted.
- Get some sleep before long days of driving. Fatigue is a major contributing factor to truck crashes. Pull over and nap if you're falling asleep behind the wheel.
- Increase following distance and never "push" or tailgate other motorists. Your perception, reaction and brake activation time create a "lag" that prevents you from stopping in time. Rear-end crashes are preventable.
- Don't drive distracted. Do not text and drive. If you cause a distracted driving crash, you could personally be held civilly and / or criminally responsible. Your phone's data use could become evidence and be used against you in a trial.
- Control other distractions like CB use, food, smoking, eating, and drinking – pay attention to the road.
- When pulling a trailer, increase your following distance.
- Keep vehicle speeds appropriate and slow down! Speeding is a top contributing factor to vehicle crashes. Driving at a safe speed gives you time to react.
- Turn off supplemental brake systems in the rain, or when driving on wet, icy or snowy roads.
- Watch out for other motorists. They are most likely driving distracted. Other motorists sometimes do not understand why you are driving slower than the traffic flow and can drive more aggressively around you.
- Other motorists will tailgate you, cut you off or drive in your blind spots. Please stay situationally aware, maintain your cushion of safety, and keep a safe following distance.
- Before backing, get out and look!
- Back safely – no faster than walking speed.
- Slow down on jobsites.
- Always check your truck before and after driving for defects. Always check tires for defects and wear. Make sure brakes function properly. Check all lights.



**DON'T GET FRUSTRATED, AGITATED OR TAILGATE WHEN TRAFFIC IS CONGESTED.**



**PAY ATTENTION! SCAN THE ROADWAY AHEAD AND WATCH FOR SLOW-MOVING TRAFFIC.**



**STAYING IN THE RIGHT LANE GIVES YOU AN "OUT". DRIVE ON THE SHOULDER OR TAKE THE DITCH TO AVOID A CRASH.**