



Nebraska Water Environment Association

40TH ANNUAL HEARTLAND OPERATORS CONFERENCE

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

3:30 – 5:00 PM NWOC Business Meeting; Executive Room, 2nd floor

5:00 - 8:00 PM NWOC Ice Breaker - Sponsored by the NWOC Vendors!; Ballroom

Sponsored by the NWOC Vendors! This event is open to all registrants and exhibitors. All attendees will be given 2 drink tickets, and food will be served from 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM.

Thursday, July 16, 2026

(All sessions will be held in Staterooms D,E,F – Breaks and Lunch will be in the Ballroom)

- 7:30 AM **Registration and Welcome**
- 8:00 AM **The High Stakes of Wastewater Treatment;** AJ Kurtzer, Olsson
- 9:00 AM **DWEE NPDES Compliance Program Update;** Phillip Halsted, NDWEE
- 10:00 AM **Break – Raffle Prizes/Tour Exhibits**
- 10:15 AM **Setting up Operator Credentialing Portal;** Mike McBride, NDWEE
- 10:45 AM **Certification Exam Updates;** Mike McBride, NDWEE
- 11:15 AM **Loctite MRO Adhesives;** Mike Jones, Henkel/Loctite
- 11:45 AM **Lunch – NWEA & NWOC Updates;** Marc Rosso, City of Lincoln & Joel Jirak, Olsson
- 12:45 PM **Cybersecurity Basics for OT Environments;** Daniel Macias & Zachary Roth, City of Lincoln
- 1:15 PM **Stormwater Inspections Made Easy;** Mark Pomajzl, JEO
- 1:45 PM **Wastewater Sampling for Pathogens;** Tommy George & Tyler Cruthers, City of Lincoln
- 2:15 PM **Break – Raffle Prizes/Tour Exhibits**
- 2:30 PM **Occurrence of PFAS in Small Wastewater Treatment Plants in Nebraska;** Shannon Bartelt-Hunt, University of Nebraska Lincoln
- 3:30 PM **Small Communities Assistance Planning (SCAP) Tool;** Tyler Cotner, Wichita State University Environmental Finance Center
- 4:30 PM **Adjourn – Raffle Prizes**

Friday, July 17, 2026

(All sessions will be held in Staterooms D,E,F – Breakfast and Break will be in the Ballroom)

- 7:00 AM **Breakfast – Networking**
- 8:00 AM **UV vs Chemical Disinfection;** Kaden Ellis & Paul Koehler, JCI Industries
- 8:30 AM **Navigating the Complexities of Industrial Wastewater;** Kari Leonhard, JBS
- 9:00 AM **NPDES: Proposed Program Fees;** Patrick Ducey, NDWEE
- 10:00 AM **Break – Raffle Prizes/Tour Exhibits**
- 10:15 AM **Movie: Unless Something Goes Terribly Wrong;** Joel Jirak - Moderator, Olsson
- 12:00 PM **Adjourn – Raffle Prizes**