



American Water Works Association  
**Pacific Northwest** Section

FALL 2024

# WATER *matters*

The Official Magazine of the  
Pacific Northwest Section – AWWA

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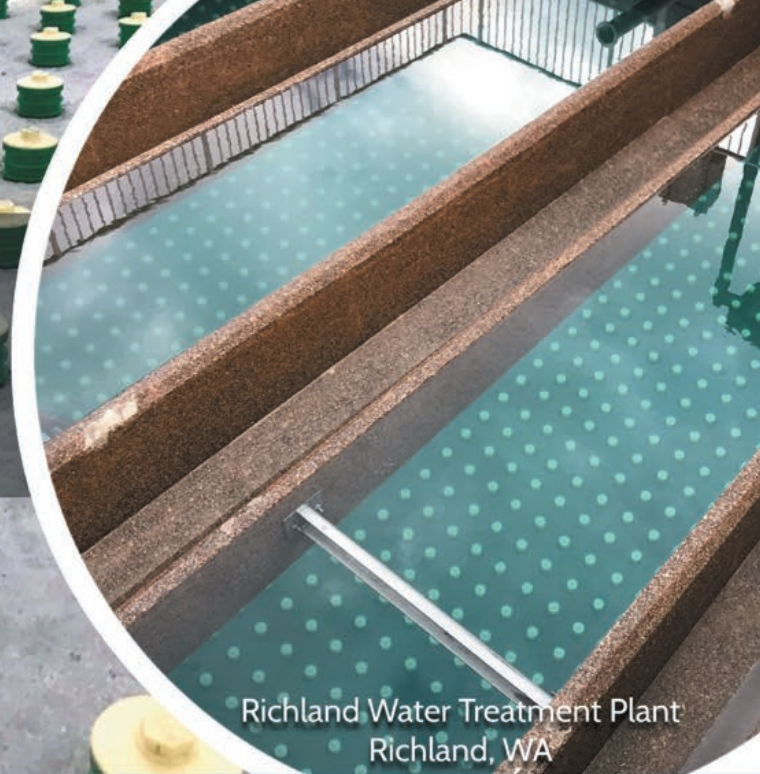
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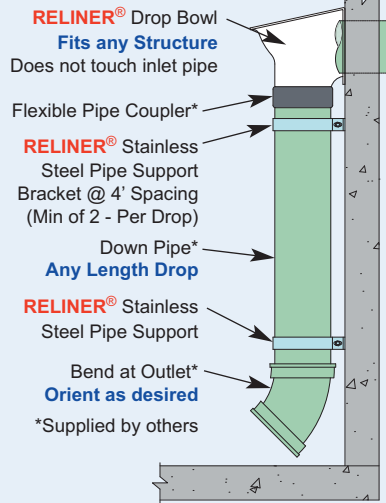
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## Gratitude and the Value of Membership

**A**s we journey through another quarter, I find myself reflecting on the extraordinary value of our PNWS membership. It's easy to get caught up in the day-to-day demands of our work and overlook the incredible support system we have within our Section. But today, I want to encourage each of you to take a moment to pause and think about the people who make our Section what it is – people who have either helped you personally or have furthered the mission of PNWS as a whole.

Membership in PNWS is more than just access to resources and events; it's about relationships. It's about the connections we forge, the mentors who guide us, and the colleagues who inspire us. These relationships are the true value of our membership, and they are what make our Section strong and vibrant.

I want to ask each of you to think of a member who has made a difference in your life or the life of our Section. It could be someone who provided invaluable advice when you were starting out, or a colleague who consistently goes above and beyond to ensure our events and initiatives are successful. Whoever that person is, take a moment to recognize them. A quick phone call or an email to say, "Thank you for your support," can mean the world.

Gratitude is a powerful force. It not only strengthens the bonds between us but also reinforces the values we hold dear in our Section – values like service, dedication, and community. By recognizing and appreciating each other, we reinforce the culture of mutual support that makes PNWS such a special place to be.

As your Chair, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you

Membership in PNWS is more than just access to resources and events; it's about relationships.

who contribute to the success of our Section. Your hard work, passion, and commitment are what keep us moving forward, even in the face of challenges. Let's continue to support one another, to recognize the contributions of our fellow members, and to celebrate the unique and invaluable community we have built together.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Let's make sure we don't just appreciate our membership in PNWS but that we actively show that appreciation – today and every day. 🙏

With gratitude,  
Nick Belmont  
PNWS-AWWA Section Chair

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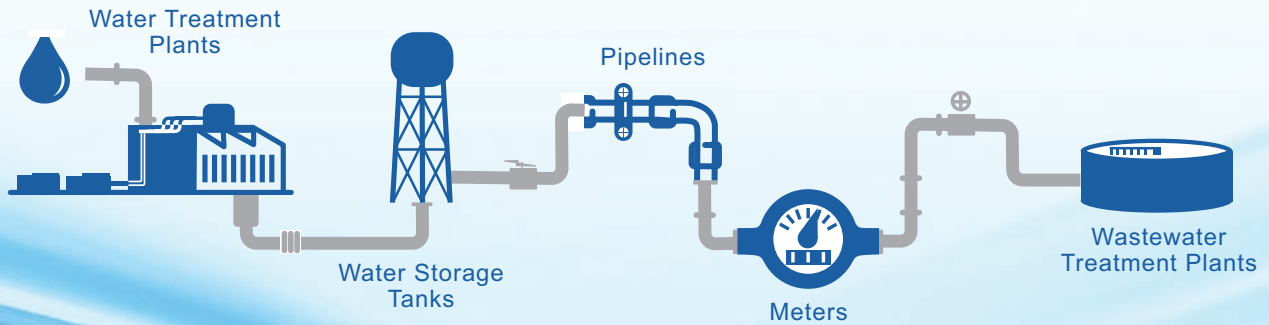
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## Elevate the Future of Water

**W**ith summer vacations ending and kids returning to school, it feels as though 2024 has flown by. It is already October, with football season upon us (let's go, Cowboys), and we are moving into fall with cooler weather. I will use this time to share a few Association highlights from this summer.

It was great to see so many from the Section in attendance at ACE 2024 in Anaheim this year! The conference was a success in terms of both revenue and attendance, with over 11,000 attendees, exceeding the estimated attendance by more than 800 people and overall revenue by more than \$300,000! There was a large contingent of foreign delegates in attendance from countries such as Korea, Japan, and South Africa, all of whom emphasize AWWA's partnerships and influence globally in an effort to provide safe and sustainable water far into the future.

The Association also finalized the annual business plan, incorporating several important updates to the strategic plan, such as:

- Enhancing member experience through the Association's new management software, updated website, and new e-commerce site.
- Establishing commitments to advancing our culture of inclusion and diversity, with a focus on ensuring at least 75% of the candidates invited to interviews include diverse backgrounds.
- Expanding AWWA's total water solutions as part of the Water 2050 Initiative. The vision was completed, and the roadmap is underway, with help from implementation teams and strategic partners.

A complete update of all the strategic objectives included in the business plan will be reported after the

conclusion of the Council Summit that will be held in late October.

At the International Water Association's World Water Congress & Exhibition held in Toronto the first week of August, AWWA was represented by President-Elect Heather Collins, Past-President Joe Jacangelo, Director of Engineering & Technical Services Barb Martin, and AWWA CEO David LaFrance. They provided an in-depth presentation and overview of the Water 2050 Initiative and were able to get feedback from other water industry professionals from around the globe.

I again want to highlight a couple of the ways that AWWA recognizes its volunteer membership through national awards such as the Diversity & Inclusion Award, Innovation Award, Heroism Award, Gimmicks & Gadget Awards, and the Operators Meritorious Service Award, to name a few. There's no

better way to show our appreciation for the professionals that we all work alongside than by nominating someone for one of these awards. Anyone wanting more information on the process, please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

Lastly, I want to share some upcoming events of interest. From October 15-16, 2024, the annual Council Summit will be held in Denver, CO; the Water Quality Technology Conference will be held November 17-27, 2024, in Schaumburg, IL; and ACE 2025 is all set for June 8-11, 2025, in Denver, CO. The theme will be "Elevate" – let's innovate together and ELEVATE the future of water!

As always, it is my honor to represent the Pacific Northwest Section as your Association Director on the National Board of Directors. 🇺🇸

James Dean  
PNWS-AWWA Association Director

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### AWWA Water Matters! DC Fly-In

Cole Benak, PNWS-AWWA Young Professionals Chair

This past April, I had the unique honor of being one of five Water Equation scholarship recipients for Young Professionals (YPs), allowing me to participate in the AWWA DC Fly-In event. The other four YP Awardees were Jeniece Neville (Illinois), Tiffany Tran (California/Nevada), Torin Johnson (Pennsylvania), and Sarah Burns (Florida).

Each year, the Water Matters! DC Fly-In event brings national water issues to the attention of senators, congressmen, and congresswomen, providing a platform to discuss major challenges impacting the water industry. This year, the key issues included 'CERCLA Liability Protection for Water Systems,' 'Promoting Water Affordability in Local Communities,' 'Investing in Our Nation's Water Infrastructure,' and 'Building Cybersecurity Resilience.' Water Utility Councils (WUCs) from each section and state attend the event to speak directly with their legislators and representatives, helping create a unified voice from across the nation.

The Pacific Northwest Section is unique within AWWA as it spans three states, making the priority of these issues vary for each utility council. Further complicating matters, each congressional representative sits on different committees, requiring us to tailor our talking points to emphasize specific aspects of our agenda.

As someone with limited government affairs experience and representing three states, I initially felt overwhelmed. However, one of AWWA's strengths, particularly within the YP community, is networking. My first instinct was to lean on peers I'd connected with through online and in-person YP events, such as Chelsea Boozer with Rogue Water Lab and Bebe Shaefer with the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies. They provided invaluable insight into what to expect from the event and what the experience could potentially be like as a YP. Following these discussions,



I reached out to members of the utility councils from the states within our Section to clarify my role during this trip and attended preparatory meetings leading up to our departure.

Oregon WUC sent three representatives, Idaho WUC sent one, and Washington WUC sent a total of nine, many of whom, including myself, arrived a day early. This early arrival allowed us to schedule additional meetings, organize our talking points, ease any nervousness, and find a conversational flow that worked for our group. The individuals I collaborated with have years of experience and have been champions for the water industry as it navigates evolving challenges. Amidst this cohort as a YP, it can be daunting to find your voice. It's important to remind ourselves that the experiences we've gained and the impacts we've made add value to conversations when given opportunities like this.

I was assigned the task of discussing the importance of investing in our nation's water infrastructure, focusing on two key points: increasing funding for the State Revolving Fund (SRF) and *Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act* (WIFIA) programs to fully appropriated levels, and stopping the practice of earmarking SRF funds. Being given the responsibility of presenting one of our key points was both intimidating and an honor, especially given the expertise within

our group. This experience offered a valuable opportunity to learn how national issues affecting local utilities and smaller communities are brought to the attention of our country's decision-makers.

The professionals I worked with encouraged me to have a voice during discussions and meetings and valued my input when debriefing after sessions, which helped us continuously refine our approach. It's no surprise that many groups and organizations come to Washington, DC, to lobby for increased funding. Many representatives already supported full funding for these programs, but they were intrigued to hear specific projected costs for projects impacting our Section and their districts. As an example, I was able to share projected costs for implementing PFAS treatment across the City of Vancouver's system with Representative Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, giving her a tangible sense of the scale and funding needs for such projects, as well as the potential impact on her constituents. Making that connection between our concerns and their district's needs helped highlight the significance of our requests.

Regarding congressional earmarks and the practice of drawing from available SRF funds, there was strong opposition to discontinuing this process, and understandably so. Representatives can secure funding for critical projects in their districts, which resonates with



their voting base. It's effective publicity, and many municipalities have benefited. However, a critical question arose that we hadn't fully prepared for: "If not from the SRF funds, then from where?" To keep the conversation going, we proposed the idea of utilizing Lead Service Line Replacement Funding.

In the Pacific Northwest, there are significantly fewer lead service lines compared to other parts of the country for several reasons. In 2022, Washington State received \$63 million in funding specifically for addressing this issue, yet only \$85,000 was utilized – meaning over 99% of the available funds were returned to the EPA (Washington State Standard, August 25, 2023). This unspent funding could have supported other critical areas in the region. In 2023, out of \$28.65 million available, only \$1.29 million – just 4.5% of the total – was awarded, and exclusively for developing service line inventories (WA DOH 2023 Project Priority List). Altogether, approximately \$92 million was made available, but \$90.6 million was returned to the EPA. Although this funding is already accessible, it remains severely underutilized and could be an ideal source to redirect for SRF program earmarks or additional funding. Highlighting this data helped demonstrate to representatives that resources are available and offers a potential solution to their question of where funding could come from.

Preparing for unknown discussions is challenging, but it's crucial to anticipate obstacles by identifying gaps in our issues and having supporting information ready. Playing your own devil's advocate and taking the time to review each meeting's highs and lows with your WUC is essential for finding the right flow of discussion and improving your

approach. Entering these meetings with a cohesive group strategy can give you the confidence to present your points assertively. The discussions that made the most impact were those that included a personal story from the representative's district, illustrating how the issue affected their constituents. Representatives are people, too, and breaking down high-level issues into ones that are local to them makes the problem more tangible. Additionally, simplifying technical details and focusing on the key points helps avoid getting lost in the weeds.

Leading up to the DC Fly-In, it's important for WUC members or those supporting them to take the time to survey concerns across the Section to gather these stories. Alternatively, it's important to submit your feedback as a utility provider of issues you've faced that can help give them valuable information to supply these stories. Meetings are brief, and representatives or staffers meet with different concerned groups all day. How can you contribute to making these messages stand out?



This experience was an incredible opportunity to see how legislative matters are addressed within the water industry. Working alongside the WUCs was eye-opening, showing how each meeting and district was handled differently and how we can make our issues resonate with those who may not have been fully informed. This involvement instilled confidence and passion for the work we do. Being given the opportunity to sit at the table and help lead discussions reinforces that those leading our industry and organization are invested in Young Professionals and the potential we have to offer. Despite any self-doubt or the anticipated number of applicants, I strongly encourage all Young Professionals to apply for this scholarship opportunity in the future. I wish you the best of luck and hope you have an experience as rewarding as mine. 📧



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## Engineering Committee

### Out in the Field

On June 10, 2024, the Engineering Committee organized a site visit to the Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District's (SPWater) Interim North Lake Lift Station Capacity Improvements Project. The project has the objective of increasing capacity through a new pump pit to house new 2,000 GPM capacity pumps. The existing dry pit is being converted to additional sewer wet well storage to increase the capacity to meet growing needs. A new odor control building is also being constructed, and the electrical building is being remodeled. The most unique component of the construction was the use of the shoring method called SoilFreeze, which uses pipes installed vertically in the ground that are chilled with refrigerant to freeze the soil for stabilization. The frozen walls act as support to prevent soil collapse and control groundwater inflow. The project has a budget of approximately \$6 million and a construction timeframe of July 2023 through November 2024. Thanks again to Marius Eugenio Jr. at SPWater, Gray & Osborne, the design consultant, and the contractor McClure & Sons for hosting this site visit! The Engineering Committee is looking ahead to the fall to set up future site visits.



Figure 1: SPWater Site Visit



Figure 2: Shoring Method using SoilFreeze

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### 2025 Conference

We are always amazed at the number of outstanding abstracts submitted for the Annual Conference. Thank you to all those who submitted. The Engineering Committee met in August to select presentations for the 2025 Conference Engineering Technical Track. We are looking forward to another great lineup at the conference next year.

### Excellence in Engineering Award

We will be soliciting entries starting in November for the Excellence in Engineering Award. These awards highlight both small and large projects that have positively impacted our communities. Please watch your email for more information soon!

### Committee Meeting Schedule

Engineering Committee meetings are held from noon – 1 pm (PT) on the first Wednesday of each month. If you'd like to join the Committee, please contact Dan Shafar at [dan.shafar@jacobs.com](mailto:dan.shafar@jacobs.com) or [evelyn.choudhary@wsp.com](mailto:evelyn.choudhary@wsp.com).

### New Officers

- Greg Loscher, Chair – Bowen, Collins & Associates  
Phone: 208-939-9561, [gloscher@bowencollins.com](mailto:gloscher@bowencollins.com).
- Dan Shafar, Vice-Chair – Jacobs Solutions  
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- Evelyn Choudhary, Secretary – WSP  
Phone: 360-713-0483, [evelyn.choudhary@wsp.com](mailto:evelyn.choudhary@wsp.com).
- Taylor Stockton, Past Chair – RH2 Engineering  
Phone: 503-278-5356, [tstockton@rh2.com](mailto:tstockton@rh2.com).



## Member Engagement and Development Committee (MEDC)

### MEDC Purpose:

To support the Pacific Northwest Section of AWWA (PNWS) in the engagement, retention, and growth of membership.

We are excited to move into the fall with a full complement of MEDC leadership and officers. During the Spring Conference in Spokane this year, Daniel Amdor from the Woodinville Water District, Jorge Miranda from the City of Beaverton, and Michael Neher of Sundt Construction expressed an interest in the MEDC and are now active members. Following their involvement on the Section Board and Association, both Randy Black and Tyler Clary have found a new home within the MEDC. All have assumed vital roles within the MEDC. Interested in learning more? Attend our next monthly call. We meet on the third Thursday of the month from noon to 1 pm. Contact [dschlepp@rh2.com](mailto:dschlepp@rh2.com) for the meeting invite.

### Membership Challenge 2023/2024

We are always looking for new members to join the PNWS-AWWA. Whether at a career fair, Young Professional event, or casual conversation with someone in the industry, don't hesitate to extend an invitation. The value of membership could be a scholarship opportunity for a student, a mentor for a Young Professional, and leadership and networking opportunities for anyone who joins. Each year, AWWA promotes both the attraction of new members and the retention of existing members. With AWWA updating its association-related software, the 2023/2024 membership challenge was revised to focus on the 12 months between the end of July 2023 and the end of July 2024. The PNWS established a goal of one percent growth during this period, and while we continue to see the addition of new members, this has been offset by those who have discontinued formal affiliation with AWWA, resulting in a net gain of eight members or 0.03%. During the same period in the two previous years, we saw growth of 1.7% and 3.2%. This is a yearlong endeavor, and we encourage you to convey the organization's benefits



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to coworkers and others in or interested in the industry. Share the AWWA membership link far and wide, and let's continue to grow! To join, visit <https://awwa.org/membership-volunteering/join>.

## Mentorship Program

The Pacific Northwest Section of the American Water Works Association (PNWS-AWWA) offers a Mentorship/Protégé Program that provides an excellent opportunity for career development and networking. Here are the key details:

- **Program Overview:** The PNWS Mentorship program involves a commitment of 5-6 meetings over six months. Participants – both mentors and protégés – have the chance to develop relationships, share experiences, and gain invaluable leadership skills.
- **Matching Process:** Mentor/protégé pairs will be carefully matched, fostering connections between seasoned professionals and those seeking guidance.

- **Application Deadline:** If you're interested in participating as a mentor or a protégé, apply for the 7th Annual 2024-25 PNWS Mentorship Program before October 11, 2024.

### Protégé Form



### Mentor Form



If you are seeing this message for the first time and haven't participated yet, apply now before it's too late.

For more information or to apply, you can contact the Mentorship Program team, Kyle Wong, at [kyle.wong@spwater.org](mailto:kyle.wong@spwater.org) or Daniel Amador, at [damador@woodinvillewater.com](mailto:damador@woodinvillewater.com).

Whether you're looking to share your expertise or learn from others, this program is a fantastic opportunity to enhance your career journey.

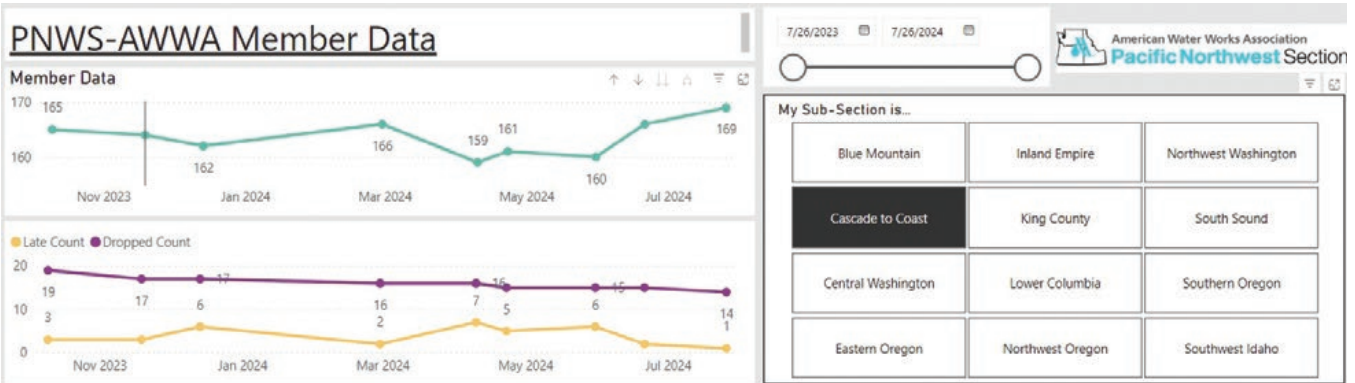
*"Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction."* – John Crosby.

## NEW Membership Dashboard

Additionally, after years of creative effort, we have released the Membership Dashboard. This tool will give you important information at your fingertips about your Subsection membership. A special thanks to Chris Young for his commitment to developing this tool and Michael Neher for working with Chris to fine-tune the database operation. Below is a sample of how this tool can be used to monitor the growth of overall members, individuals, utilities, service providers, and students. Please contact MEDC leadership to request access to this great new tool.

## Need help with reaching your Subsection members?

Let us know! We can pull member lists that are specific to your Subsection and renewal date to outreach to specific members. Please reach out to the MEDC Chair, Doug Schlepp, at [dschlepp@rh2.com](mailto:dschlepp@rh2.com); Tyler Clary, MEDC Vice-Chair, at [tclary@clarkpud.com](mailto:tclary@clarkpud.com); Chris Young, MEDC Past-Chair, at [chris.young@consoreng.com](mailto:chris.young@consoreng.com), or visit us at [www.pnws-awwa.org/member-groups/committees/membership-committee](http://www.pnws-awwa.org/member-groups/committees/membership-committee).







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## Scholarship Committee

The Pacific Northwest Section began providing scholarships in 1971. The Section Board formally established the Education and Training (E&T) fund in 1985 to help provide a stable funding base for these scholarships. Since 1971, the Section has awarded over \$750,000 in scholarships to 339 students. We also recognize the increasing participation by Subsections in the E&T program. The following Subsections all have named scholarships:

- Inland Empire
- King County
- Lower Columbia
- NW Oregon (John Aho)
- NW Washington
- South Sound
- Southern Oregon
- Southwest Idaho

Other Subsections are diligently working to build their scholarship funds to join the ranks of the named scholarships. Great work, Subsections!

This year, E&T proceeds and direct contributions from the NW Washington Subsection, Kelman Publishing (our newsletter publisher), and the Section Board enabled us to award a total of \$51,950 for twelve (12) scholarships. We celebrated these awards at our annual conference and received some great comments from the recipients.

**Here is the list of recipients for the 2024 Scholarships:**

Tyler Kleinsasser was awarded the Allen A. Alsing Scholarship, totaling \$5,000. Tyler is pursuing a master's in civil and environmental engineering and engineering

management at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology.

*“Thank you – I’m honored and grateful to be selected as a recipient!” – Tyler.*

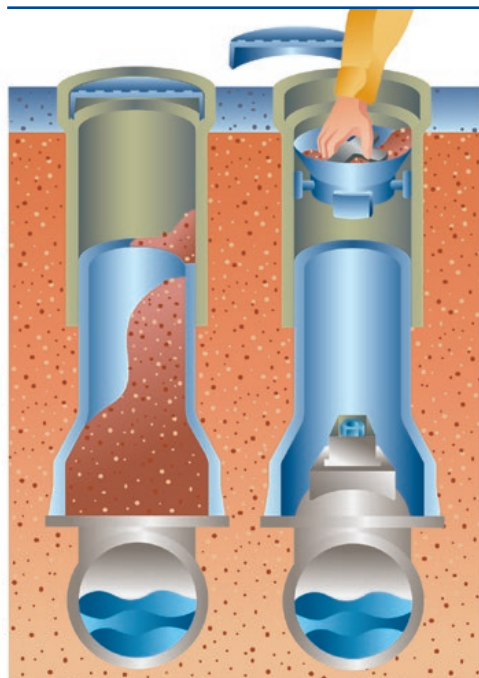
Elif Myers is working on his master's in geology and hydrogeology at Central Washington University. He was awarded the Chris Uber Memorial and Allen A. Alsing scholarships, totaling \$5,000.

*“Thank you for the generous contribution to my education!” – Elif.*

Benedicte Diakubama was awarded the NW Washington Subsection Direct Scholarship, totaling \$5,000. Benedicte is working on her master's in civil and environmental engineering, focusing on engineered systems in water at the University of Washington.



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*"I am full of joy and gratitude to receive this amazing and exciting news."* – Benedicte.

Josh Gottlieb received the SW Idaho Subsection, Archie Rice, Legacy, and E&T scholarships, totaling \$4,950. Josh is attending Portland State University, pursuing a civil and environmental engineering degree.

Brook Bauer received the Alan Jones, Bill and Teddy Beckman, Past Chairs, Alan Jones, Wubben Family, and E&T scholarships, totaling \$4,000. She is a Central Washington University student studying hydrogeology.

*"The support that this scholarship offers not only facilitates my pursuit of higher education in hydrogeology at Central Washington University but also empowers me to advance my research endeavors in the Yakima Basin. Specifically, I am focusing on the critical examination of alluvial fan aquifers, delving into their capacity to transmit and retain water during prolonged periods of drought. This scholarship represents far more than financial assistance; it symbolizes belief in my potential and commitment to the advancement of scientific inquiry in water resources in the basin, and I am immensely grateful."* – Brook.

Caitlin Lien was awarded the James Doane Family, Lower Columbia Subsection, NW Washington Subsection, and E&T scholarships, totaling \$4,000. Caitlin is studying at the Oregon Institute of Technology, seeking a degree in civil engineering.

*"Without the contribution of your scholarship, I would not be able to afford my education, making your scholarship invaluable to my education and future success as a civil engineer."* – Caitlin.

Austin Popoff was awarded the Inland Empire Subsection, PNWS, and E&T



scholarships, totaling \$4,000. He is a student at Washington State University studying chemical engineering.

*"I am very appreciative and honored to have received this scholarship."* – Austin.

Tori Abbott is working on her bachelor's in civil engineering at Boise State University. Tori was awarded the Southern Oregon Subsection and E&T scholarships, totaling \$4,000.

*"Thank you so much for everything! It is greatly appreciated and such an honor."* – Tori.

Conner Berg received the Ron Heinke Memorial, Cynthia Driscoll, King County Subsection, Kathy Merry, Skiles Pettie, and E&T scholarships, totaling \$4,000. He is a student at the Oregon Institute of Technology studying civil engineering.

*"Receiving this scholarship from the AWWA will alleviate a substantial amount of the financial burden of college and aid my career's beginning."* – Conner.

Alicia Antillon was awarded the One Water – PNWS Designated Fund, John Aho (NWOR), South Sound Subsection, and E&T scholarships, totaling \$4,000. She is a student at Portland State University studying civil engineering.


Angelo Ong received the Kelman and E&T scholarships, totaling \$4,000. Angelo is attending the University of Washington, pursuing a degree in environmental health sciences.

*"The PNWS-AWWA scholarship award empowers me to continue researching next-generation DNA sequencing technologies for applications in wastewater-based epidemiology. The scholarship supports me as an interdisciplinary scientist that integrates public health and wastewater engineering to ultimately deliver safe and clean water for people, animals, and the environment."* – Angelo.

Jacob Bernal is working on his master's in environmental and natural resource sciences at Washington State University. He was awarded the NW Washington Subsection and E&T scholarships, totaling \$4,000.

*"I would like to say thank you so much for choosing me as the Pacific Northwest Section-American Water Works Association scholar! This is a privilege, and I'm happy to be acknowledged for my academic and professional experience/endeavors. This means a lot."* – Jacob.

Colleagues, friends, associates, and guests, if you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Education and Training Endowment Fund, please contact Bob Willis, E&T Chair, or Kyle Khis, Section Executive Director.

Thank you for supporting the future of our organization, our communities, and, in particular, these outstanding students. Contact Jason Branstetter or LaDonne Harris of the Scholarship Committee with any questions: [scholarship@pnws-awwa.org](mailto:scholarship@pnws-awwa.org). 

### Utility Management Committee

Get a jump start on CEUs/PDHs for 2025! Join us on January 15, 2025, at the Vancouver Water Resources Education Center as the Utility Management Committee sponsors an event, **“The Future One Water Workforce – Challenges and Solutions.”** Please get in touch with Committee Chair Ann Hajnosz at [ann.hajnosz@weareharris.com](mailto:ann.hajnosz@weareharris.com) if you would like to be a speaker for this event or if you know of someone who you would like to hear at this event.


### Water Conservation Committee

The Water Conservation Committee held our summer meeting in Sherwood, OR, on Friday, August 9, 2024. Attendees got together for a delicious networking lunch at The Old Spaghetti Factory, followed by a lively conservation discussion and a roundtable of member updates. Amy Meaut coordinated with David Marciniak to give attendees a tour of the new Willamette Water Supply Program Treatment Plant, currently under construction. Attendees learned about all the planning and hard work underway to construct this new WTP, as well as the innovative technology that will be utilized at the site. It was a fun and educational day connecting with our regional conservation network, culminating in a happy hour at Ancestry Brewing!

At this meeting, we also announced the transition of Conservation Committee Officers. We enthusiastically thank Cody Scoggins (former Chair) and Amy Meaut (former Secretary) for their work on the Conservation Committee this previous year, concluding with an exceptional summer tour! For this upcoming year, Brittany Contreras will be stepping in as Committee Chair, and we welcome two new officers to the Committee. Danlyn Brennan will be holding the role of Vice-Chair, and Melissa Fatland will be taking the Secretary role. We are looking forward to bringing members together for engaging quarterly meetings and offering a notable Conservation Track at the 2025 Section Conference in Boise!



The Water Conservation Committee is currently working to coordinate upcoming meetings and a Conservation Track for the 2025 PNWS Conference in Boise; stay tuned for more information on upcoming meetings!

For more information about the PNWS Conservation Committee, please get in touch with Chair Brittany Contreras at [brittany.contreras@hillsboro-oregon.gov](mailto:brittany.contreras@hillsboro-oregon.gov), Vice-Chair Danlyn Brennan at [danlyn.brennan@hdrinc.com](mailto:danlyn.brennan@hdrinc.com), or Secretary Melissa Fatland at [mfalland@bendoregon.gov](mailto:mfalland@bendoregon.gov). 



## Young Professionals Committee

The Young Professionals (YP) Committee hosts events that foster valuable leadership skills, provide opportunities to grow technical knowledge to enhance careers in the water industry and encourage networking between seasoned professionals and YPs. Young Professionals have been in the water industry for less than ten years.

The YP Committee meets virtually on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2:00 pm (PST).

### Welcome New Members!

The Young Professionals Committee recently opened applications for previously vacant committee positions and created some new roles for our community members to fill. In doing so, several applications were received, and voting forms were sent to the YP community for input. The voting process was closed following last month's meeting, and determinations were made for three positions. We want to congratulate the following individuals for volunteering to serve on the YP Board and helping to grow the YP community!



Emma Martin,  
City of Hillsboro – Vice-Chair



Grace Crower,  
Kimley Horn –  
Events Coordinator



Lea Connors,  
Conсор – Treasurer

### Summer Happy Hour!

This summer, the King County YP groups co-hosted their second annual Summer Happy Hour with ASCE, SPWA, and PNCWA, held at Old Stove Brewing's Ship Canal location in Seattle. The event had over 90 people registered, with roughly 60 in attendance! Keep an eye out next year for the opportunity to attend this fantastic networking event.



### Young Professionals Conference Track

The Young Professionals will host another half-day YP Track at the 2025 Boise Section Conference! We received outstanding feedback from conference attendees last year and are looking forward to hosting another successful track covering professional growth, leadership opportunities, and projects and experiences that YPs and seasoned professionals alike could benefit from hearing!

### YP Liaisons – Help Spread the Word!

The YP Committee is comprised of young professionals across the PNWS. Subsection liaisons connect their local AWWA communities with the section-wide YP Committee.

We are seeking YP Liaisons for the following subsections:

- Blue Mountain
- Cascade to Coast
- Central Washington
- Eastern Oregon
- Northwest Washington

If you are interested in representing your Subsection, supporting/hosting local events, and fostering YP outreach and involvement, please reach out!

### Need Some Money?

The YP Committee still has a budget remaining for 2024 (calendar cycle) to assist the PNWS YP Community for:

- *YP Events* – Want to host an event? Funding is available to help cover food, event space, prizes, and other necessities.
- *Scholarships* – Want to get ahead? Funding is available for leadership or training events/programs, conference attendance, etc.

Complete and submit a Funds Request Form on the YP Committee webpage for consideration!

### Reach Out!

Email Claire Litsky at [clitsky@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:clitsky@cityoftacoma.org), Cole Benak at [cole.benak@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:cole.benak@cityofvancouver.us), or Annabel Irwin at [annabeli@sagegeotechnical.com](mailto:annabeli@sagegeotechnical.com) if you have questions or are interested in joining the YP Committee in any capacity.

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# CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS

The Pacific Northwest Section Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for 2025. You will vote for one of the two candidates for Chair-Elect and one of the candidates in each of the three Trustee categories: Oregon/Idaho, Washington, and Trustee-At-Large.

Each of the three Trustee positions is for a two-year term, and the Chair-Elect will serve one year as Chair-Elect, one year as Chair, and one year as Past Chair.

## **CHAIR-ELECT:**

Corianne Burnett  
Jolene Gibson

## **OREGON/IDAHO TRUSTEE:**

Kyle Arnhart  
Cody Scoggins

## **WASHINGTON TRUSTEE:**

Jeremy Djajadi  
Caren Sleeth

## **TRUSTEE-AT-LARGE:**

Katie Dillon  
Enoch Nicholson  
Andrew Nishihara

# CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS

## CHAIR-ELECT



### **Corianne Burnett** Project Manager – Carollo Engineers, Inc.

It's a privilege and an honor to be nominated to serve as the Chair-Elect of the Pacific Northwest Section and to serve as your representative in that capacity. As many of you already know, my involvement in AWWA is one of my biggest passions.

I have been heavily involved in the water industry, AWWA, and the Pacific Northwest Section for my entire career. Since joining AWWA in 2005, I have participated in numerous Section and Association committees. Involvement and participation at the Chair position will allow me to represent the diverse background that I have through the memberships

**“ MY PAST AND CURRENT INVOLVEMENT IN LEADERSHIP ROLES WITH AWWA COMMITTEES AT LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL LEVELS, AS WELL AS BEING EMPLOYED BY BOTH PUBLIC AGENCIES AND CONSULTANTS, WOULD HELP GUIDE ME IN THE ROLE OF CHAIR FOR THE SECTION. ”**

of women, young professionals, engineers, new members, public agencies, consultants, Section Boards, Association committees, Section committees, and local committees, all of which I have had personal experience and continually engage with. These diverse groups, each representing a piece of the membership, make sure that as AWWA grows and evolves, we continue to serve the needs of our current memberships through engagement, knowledge creation and exchange, organizational stewardship, water policy, and leadership.

My past and current involvement in leadership roles with AWWA committees at local, regional, and national levels, as well as being employed by both public agencies and consultants, would help guide me in the role of Chair for the Section. This has allowed me to see first-hand how our members are experiencing their membership on all levels, not only from their committee work but also how they interact within the Section, discovering what they like and what they thought the Section could do better.

I started my career at a small utility and then moved into consulting for those very same small utilities, giving me a unique experience to see multiple sides of membership. Being involved with the Section in multiple capacities has taught me the needs and goals of each level of involvement. As Chair, I would be interested in focusing on the following topics:

**Membership** – Recruitment and retention should be at the forefront of our goals for our Section. I want to continue our passion for AWWA and the experiences we had during our careers and pass it on to the next generation. This will be especially true during this new era of work-from-home and hybrid work environments and interactions.

**Training/Education** – I want to promote and provide continued education and training opportunities to our members. We need to continue training collaboration across the membership, promoting improved access to training through Subsection outreach and the use of new technology.

**Networking/Regulatory Support** – Our Section provides networking opportunities that foster key relationships in the promotion of emergency response and continues to develop a framework of support to customers, public officials, utilities, and policyholders. I will promote more frequent Subsection events that foster these relationships at the local level.

I am very thankful for my experiences in AWWA over the last several decades and the people I have met through this organization. There is nothing I would like more than to continue to share my passion for our Section with our current and future membership. Thank you for your consideration.





# CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS



## CHAIR-ELECT



### **Jolene Gibson** Operations Manager – Tacoma Water

I am deeply honored to be nominated for Chair-Elect of this wonderful section! It has been an incredible privilege to serve as Washington Trustee for the past year and a half, and I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to continue doing so in this expanded role.

Over the past 15 years, I have been actively involved in various capacities within the section. I started as a member of the Local Arrangements Committee, planning for the 2010 Tacoma Conference. I then served on the LAC for many years as the Water For People Silent Auction Coordinator/Chair, a member of the WFP Committee, and in 2017 was awarded the Kenneth J. Miller Award. I was Co-Chair for the 2018 Tacoma Conference and 2021 Water Quality Technical Conference local liaison. After a brief break, I returned to join the South Sound Subsection. I served as President for three years, navigating through the challenges brought on by COVID-19, continuing to offer remote and hybrid trainings, and eventually transitioning back into in-person events. At the Section level as Washington Trustee, I have thoroughly enjoyed supporting the Philanthropic Division, gaining a better understanding of what each of those committees does, sharing ideas, and learning more each day.

**“ MY TIME WITH THE PNWS HAS BEEN INCREDIBLY REWARDING, PROVIDING ME WITH VALUABLE EXPERIENCES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH. THROUGH MY INVOLVEMENT, I’VE HONED MY LEADERSHIP SKILLS. I HOPE TO HIGHLIGHT THESE OPPORTUNITIES AND HOW THEY TRULY SHOW THE VALUE IN MEMBERSHIP.**

I started my journey with Tacoma Water 19 years ago, beginning as an office assistant and working up to Operations Manager in the Maintenance and Construction department. My time with the PNWS has been incredibly rewarding, providing me with valuable experiences and opportunities for professional growth. Through my involvement, I’ve honed my leadership skills. I hope to highlight these opportunities and how they truly show the value in membership and continue to build a strong partnership between Subsections and Committees.

I’m a PNWS native, born and raised in the Puget Sound area. My husband Chris, our kiddos Cora and Jack, our pup Ollie, and I can be found boating in the South Sound (of course), gardening, and enjoying any beach we can visit. I love the Pacific Northwest and am passionate about helping others grow; I look forward to continuing to build relationships and move the section forward.

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# CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS

## OREGON/IDAHO TRUSTEE



### **Kyle Arnhart** Water Operations Supervisor – City of Tigard

It's a true honor to receive the nomination for Oregon/Idaho Trustee of the PNWS. My time and experience with AWWA have been isolated to the PNWS, but in that time, I've come to appreciate the work done by the past and present PNWS Board members and the committee volunteers. It's because

of this group, the over 3,000 members of PNWS, that we get to attend great training courses throughout the year and attend the Annual Section Conference.

I've worked for the City of Tigard for 18 years, the last 16 being a water professional. My career started in road maintenance with Clackamas County as a seasonal employee. When I started at the City of Tigard, it was in the Street Department. After a few years in that division, I quickly realized I wanted to be one of those 'water guys' and work in the Water Division. I wanted to get wet and muddy, work in the trenches, and fix the pipe breaks! I also wanted to assist in providing essential services to the community and continue to deliver dependable, clean, safe water.

AWWA has helped me excel in my career development by allowing me the opportunity to continue my education. In 2022, I was awarded the Kelman NW Washington E&T Scholarship, which I used to attend classes at Portland State University.

I've been engaged with the Northwest Oregon Subsection for the last six years, moving through many positions, including volunteering as a Board Officer. If elected as a Trustee, I will continue to support member engagement through our Association and engage the Young Professionals so they have a successful career. I will also commit to attending functions and trainings and continue to be involved at all levels.

Early on in my career, I was able to attend the YP Summit in Yakima, Washington. I was nervous and a little out of my comfort zone meeting new people, but looking back, that was exactly what I needed. I believe this conference is where my appreciation for AWWA started, and I'm grateful I was able to participate as an attendee. If elected, I hope to work with the YP Committee and Board to bring the Summit back so our Young Professionals have a fun, local networking opportunity. I'm excited my role will shift from being an attendee to helping to organize such an important and noteworthy event.

At the Subsection level, I've been a part of the Waterworks Committee, chaired the Safety and Education Committee, and assisted the Scholarship Committee. I've participated in the annual Subsection's John Aho Golf Tournament and helped organize the event for the last two years. The transition from Subsection to Section feels like a great way to continue to give back and support AWWA.

I'm currently the Water Operations Supervisor at the City of Tigard, and I oversee the distribution field crew, which consists of seven employees. I have performed many tasks of water distribution, from reading meters, main breaks, chlorinating waterlines, and monitoring SCADA to ensure water demands are met for our customers.

My latest job highlight was assisting the PDB team in building Tigard's newest 4.5 MGD concrete reservoir and seeing the project from start to finish. Previous positions I've held at Tigard were Utility Worker II, Senior Utility Worker, Senior Water Utility Tech, and Interim Water Operations Supervisor.

My current certifications include Water Distribution Level III, Water Treatment Level I, Cross Connection Specialist, and Backflow Assembly Tester. All certifications are through the Oregon Health Authority.

Many people have influenced my career, and I'm thankful for them. If you're reading this and are remembering a good time we had, let's do it again, and thank you for the memories! I want to acknowledge the City of Tigard's continued support with my AWWA activities.

Thank you for considering me for your next Trustee. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Section Conference in Boise!

**“ I'M CURRENTLY THE WATER OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR AT THE CITY OF TIGARD, AND I OVERSEE THE DISTRIBUTION FIELD CREW, WHICH CONSISTS OF SEVEN EMPLOYEES. I HAVE PERFORMED MANY TASKS OF WATER DISTRIBUTION, FROM READING METERS, MAIN BREAKS, CHLORINATING WATERLINES, AND MONITORING SCADA TO ENSURE WATER DEMANDS ARE MET FOR OUR CUSTOMERS. ”**



# CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS



## OREGON/IDAHO TRUSTEE



### **Cody Scoggins** Water Efficiency Coordinator - Medford Water

It is truly an honor to be nominated for the position of Oregon/Idaho Trustee. With only five years of experience within the Section, it is exciting to have the opportunity as a young professional to serve on the Board. AWWA has played an integral role in shaping my career

and has helped me grow on a personal level as well. Being able to learn from my mentors, collaborate with others in my field, and network within the Section is something I will be forever grateful for.

For those who don't know me, I live in Medford, Oregon, with my wife Ashlee, our son Atlas (3), our newborn daughter Charlotte (born on July 7, 2024), and our two dogs, Triton and Harley. My personality is often two-sided because I do love being home, but I am a very outgoing person, so I love to be in the community. Although I am nestled down in Southern Oregon, I feel connected to almost all Subsections because of the family created within the PNWS-AWWA Section.

**“ IF ELECTED AS YOUR OREGON/IDAHO TRUSTEE, MY GOAL IS TO KEEP THAT PASSION ALIVE BY CONTINUING TO BRING YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TOGETHER TO LEARN FROM THE SEASONED PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE LED THE WAY. I WILL ALSO BE THE ANCHOR BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND THE BOARD BY LISTENING TO AND ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF EACH COMMITTEE WITHIN MY DIVISION AND THE SECTION.**

Within the PNWS, I have served as Chair of the Conservation Committee, President of the Southern Oregon Subsection, and Chair of the Young Professionals Committee for our Subsection. These responsibilities allowed me to be more involved within the Section by actively participating in a wide array of other committees, which helped me better understand the true passion of everyone within the section.

If elected as your Oregon/Idaho Trustee, my goal is to keep that passion alive by continuing to bring Young Professionals together to learn from the seasoned professionals who have led the way. I will also be the anchor between the committee chairs and the Board by listening to and addressing the needs of each committee within my division and the Section. My aim is to provide the resources needed to continue the growth of the Section and its members. I respectfully ask for your vote so that I can contribute my energy, dedication, and passion to this role, ensuring that the legacy of excellence within PNWS continues to thrive for future generations, just as it has for me.



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# CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS

## WASHINGTON TRUSTEE



### Jeremy Djajadi Co-Founder and Partner, Operations - SYBIS LLC

Greetings, fellow PNWS-AWWA members! I am humbled to be nominated as your Washington Trustee candidate. My first experience with the PNWS-AWWA Section started in 2008 when I had the opportunity to attend my first Annual Conference. It was my first

exposure to the water industry, not to mention the breadth and depth of the Section and the Association itself, which at the time seemed to be overwhelming.

Throughout my journey with the Section, I have met many member volunteers who have shown passion and gratitude toward the Association, and they are contagious!

They inspired me to be involved in the areas that I can contribute to, but also have the opportunity to learn new things. This passion fueled me to be involved in baby steps, starting with the South Sound Subsection as the Technology and Website Liaison. However, it didn't take long until I was involved at the Section level as an officer in the Water Information Technology Committee (WITC) and took on the Secretary role in the South Sound Subsection.

One of the main benefits of being involved in WITC is my exposure to almost all of the committees and Subsections officers, which quickly made me realize that the Section is not as large and overwhelming as I thought. However, I saw many talents and knowledge go unshared between the committees and Subsections. I'm passionate about bridging this gap and continuing working with different committees and Subsections as a Trustee with the Section in the hope of fulfilling its mission to *"Advance a diverse and inclusive network of professionals to provide opportunities and leadership to the water industry in the Pacific Northwest."*

I am originally from Jakarta, Indonesia, and I was born and raised there until I was 12 when I moved to the Pacific Northwest. I still recall my first jaw-dropping moment when I drank straight from the tap, which was impossible back in Jakarta. Drinking water infrastructure does not exist there, so we never had potable water. Everyone grew up with drinking water delivered in a container. Right when I stepped foot here, I was appalled by the idea of drinking straight from the tap. It was when I became involved in PNWS-AWWA that I started to understand that a lot is going on behind the scenes to provide safe drinking water to the public, and 'it takes the whole village' to do it.

When not at work, I typically spend time with my wife and four kids around the Pacific Northwest outdoors, finding trails to bike or hike or as simple as spending time in our backyard. When not outdoors, I love to tinker with electronics and cars, finding things to fix and improve hoping the passion is passed on to my children.

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# CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS



## WASHINGTON TRUSTEE



### **Caren Sleeth, CPA** **Finance Manager –** **Covington Water District**

Being nominated to run for Washington Trustee is an honor, and I am excited for the opportunity to serve! During my time volunteering for PNWS-AWWA in various capacities, I have been exposed to some of the most extraordinary people who share the same commitment I do to provide safe,

reliable drinking water to our communities. I love to learn, and my curiosity and desire to contribute have allowed me to become well-versed in many skills. In my career journey, I have developed a true passion for leadership, succession planning, and workplace culture.

As a licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with both public accounting and governmental experience, I offer a unique skill set. Having been the Finance Manager for the Covington Water District for the past 17 years, as well as the Asset Management Administrator for our District, I have had the opportunity to learn 'both sides of the house.' That has enabled me to see the entire picture of what it takes to lead and manage a water utility. Being excellent stewards of our money and our assets is the foundation of any successful utility. Without competent staff equipped with the tools and

training they need, working with clear, effective policies and procedures, utilities are destined to struggle. My experiences bring a strong understanding of what it takes to help PNWS succeed now and into the future.

During my PNWS-AWWA journey, I have had the pleasure of serving on the King County Subsection Board in the roles of Treasurer, Vice-President, and President; the PNWS Philanthropic Advisory Council (PAC) in both the Treasurer and Vice-Chair roles; and on the PNWS Audit Committee. If elected, I am excited to give back to our membership and industry through service on the PNWS Board!

Family is the center of my universe, and ours is an active one! My wonderful husband Dan and our five amazing children enjoy cooking and baking together, family game nights, travel, being outdoors, supporting our children's many activities, and our family tradition of Sunday night dinners with my folks.

In my 'free' time, I enjoy playing golf with Dan, live music, and many sports, from Seahawks and Husky football, Mariner baseball, and Kraken hockey to our small-town high school teams.

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# CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS

## TRUSTEE-AT-LARGE



### **Katie Dillon** Vice-President and Business Development Manager - HDR

"Mom, why are you talking about all that water stuff again?"

"Because it's interesting and important, honey."

A typical conversation between my kids and myself while driving in the car as I'm pointing out various water infrastructure (water treatment plants, reservoirs, pipelines under construction) to them.

I'll be honest: I stumbled into this industry. As someone who majored in liberal arts (communications and political science), I left college without knowing where I wanted to end up. After a few fits and starts, I ended up working for a civil engineering firm specializing in water (in marketing). There were many times, especially at the beginning of my career, when I found myself touring a drinking water treatment plant, learning about the importance of asset management for a utility, or going on a pipeline construction site, that I thought to myself, "How the heck did I get here?"

Turns out, I love it 'here.' I quickly found a passion for the important work that is done in this industry. The drinking water industry and community have made such an impact on me, my career, and my family (who, yes, sometimes gets bored of the 'water stuff'). When asked to run for Trustee-At-Large, I jumped at the chance to give back to this industry that has given me so much.

The path I've traveled in the industry started at HDR in 2007 and returned me to HDR in 2018. Through various career moves, including working as an independent marketing consultant to the A/E/C industry, I've stayed active with PNWS-AWWA. The prospect of focusing exclusively on water drew me back to HDR. In my current role, I represent HDR with clients and in the community, track water industry drivers and initiatives in the Northwest, and lead strategic client and pursuit development. This means that one part of my 'day job' is to stay on top of the challenges, opportunities, and legislative impacts on the water industry in the same region serviced by PNWS-AWWA.

My experience with AWWA includes various leadership activities, including:

- **Water For People Committee:**

- Serving as a member since 2015
- Began serving as Chair in May 2020
- Running the Silent Auction at our Section's Annual Conference from 2016 to 2021
- Winning the 2020 Kenneth J. Miller Award

- **Philanthropic Advisory Council (PAC):**

- Serving as the PAC's inaugural Vice-Chair, helping to shape the implementation of the Council
- Moving into the position of Co-Chair, which I currently hold
- Organization of various philanthropic fundraising events, including Summer Sipping and three 'Wine for Water' events
- Serving on the national AWWA Manufactures and Associates Council (MAC) in a leadership role, Chairing the MAC Communications Committee

My experience across philanthropic efforts and on the MAC has given me exposure to many members throughout the Section and a solid understanding of the needs and desires of many of them. While I'm passionate about our Section's philanthropic efforts, I'd also like to help the Section find a greater balance between training, networking, and fundraising. While we often think of these as separate functions, I think it's possible to have events that encompass two, if not all three of them. As a member of the Board, I'd like to push outside the box thinking on this as well as other subjects such as membership and leadership recruitment, DEI efforts, and partnership with national AWWA.

When I'm not working, you can find me chasing after (aka chauffeuring) my active kids (Alton - 10 and Stella - 7), checking out a new restaurant with my husband, running with my golden retriever, or planning my next travel adventure.

Thank you so much for the consideration of serving as your Trustee-At-Large. The fact that, for a living, I get to do something that helps bring clean and safe drinking water to people and has an impact on public health is never lost on me. I feel extremely lucky and humbled to be part of this industry. I'm excited and ready to bring this important perspective to the Board of Trustees.



**THE FACT THAT, FOR A LIVING, I GET TO DO SOMETHING THAT HELPS BRING CLEAN AND SAFE DRINKING WATER TO PEOPLE AND HAS AN IMPACT ON PUBLIC HEALTH IS NEVER LOST ON ME.**



# CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS



## TRUSTEE-AT-LARGE



### **Enoch Nicholson** Senior Drinking Water Engineer - Jacobs

My experience as a volunteer leader across various AWWA committees, combined with my role as a drinking water treatment subject matter expert, has given me a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing our industry at both the local and national levels. Bringing that

expertise home to the PNWS-AWWA family of professionals is a highlight of my career, and I am honored to be considered for the Trustee-At-Large position.

From my early days as Chair of the PNWS YP Committee to my recent role as Chair of the AWWA Coagulation and Filtration Committee, I have had the privilege of serving our Association at various levels. I went to my first YP Committee meeting 17 years ago and got 'voluntold' that I was going to be the new secretary, which ended up being one of the best days of my career. After two years as Chair of the PNWS YP Committee, it was my joy to serve on the Association YP Committee for six years, including two years as Vice-Chair. From there, I turned my volunteer energy towards my technical passion, and for the last ten years, I have spent my time leading the PNWS Water Treatment Committee, AWWA M37: Coagulation, Clarification, and Filtration Manual Team, and the AWWA Coagulation and Filtration Committee. These experiences have not only deepened my understanding of AWWA but have also allowed me to contribute significantly to the development of industry standards and best practices.

Volunteering throughout AWWA has shown me how special our Section is compared to the 42 others in North America. The PNWS has an unmatched passion for inclusion, technical excellence, and building a strong professional family. I am particularly interested in exploring ways to enhance our Section's focus on engaging new members by bridging the gap between the Association and our Section on a technical level by more formally connecting our Section committees to the Association-level committees that cover the same topics.

My passion for providing clean, affordable water to all is deeply rooted in my professional experience and personal values. As a drinking water treatment subject matter expert at Jacobs, I have had the opportunity to share and leverage technical resources and knowledge with utilities around the world to address their unique water treatment challenges. One of my favorite parts of my job is helping operators maximize what they can do with the resources they are

provided, which is why I loved leading the charge to rewrite AWWA Manual M37 with a focus on making it valuable to operators who operate our water treatment facilities on a day to day basis.

Outside of work and PNWS, I love spending time with my three young children, going on dates with my wife of 12 years, flying my drone, and golfing.

To all of you, thank you so much for all that you do for our industry. I believe that together, we can build on the solid foundation of PNWS-AWWA and create an even more vibrant and impactful organization. I hope that you will consider allowing me the opportunity to help you make our Section even better.

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# CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS

## TRUSTEE-AT-LARGE



### **Andrew Nishihara, PE, ENV SP Civil Engineer – Stantec**

I've always felt every year, when it comes time to vote for Section leadership positions, it's like looking at a list of 'Who's Who' in our water industry. It can be an agonizing choice to try and vote since all the candidates have done

so much for our Section and have great plans for the future. To be included with all the fellow nominees this year has been a professional highlight and honor.

#### **Professional Involvement**

My first experience with our Section was attending NW Oregon Subsection monthly meetings with co-workers and my mentors. The meetings rotated around from utilities big and small, which gave me a great opportunity to meet new people and see a lot of water infrastructure in a relatively short amount of time. A volunteer opportunity opened in 2010 to help with the Subsection website, and having built web pages as a kid in the late 1990s, it seemed like a good way to continue to build my network and learn more about our industry – people might not know, but the older Subsection web pages were updated by volunteers coding in HTML. I kept learning by attending meetings and events, and in 2014, I was nominated to be an officer for NW Oregon, where I served as the Treasurer, Vice-President, and President roles through 2018.

At the Section level, I was able to volunteer on the Planning Committee for the 2015 Bellevue Conference and was a room scanner/general volunteer at the 2016 Boise Conference. Since 2018, I've been an active member of the Research Committee and a Past Chair. I have also tried to present and share knowledge at two Subsection Short Schools each year. All this to say that I've been fortunate to have been able to fill a lot of different roles and needs, and I have a huge appreciation for everything everyone does to keep things running as smoothly as possible.

#### **Vision**

Keeping up with regulations and technology. Staffing challenges. Engagement. There's a saying that the one thing that is constant and you can count on is change. The way a lot of us work, engage, and learn has significantly changed, and for a lot of others who show up in the field every day, it has stayed largely the same. This has resulted in a bit of a gap in needs. If elected as Trustee-At-Large, my main goal would be to serve as a communication conduit for members' needs to Section Leadership. Do we have enough trainings? Are they accessible? How can we do better? What are the barriers to YP or general engagement? What can we focus on that moves the needle?

#### **Closing**

As I've progressed through my career, I think what's inspired me the most about our industry is that it's truly service-oriented and filled with people who want to help, serve, and support others – mainly through the mission of providing safe and affordable drinking water. Thank you for all you do and for your consideration as Trustee-At-Large. 🙏

“ ALL THIS TO SAY THAT I'VE BEEN FORTUNATE TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FILL A LOT OF DIFFERENT ROLES AND NEEDS, AND I HAVE A HUGE APPRECIATION FOR EVERYTHING EVERYONE DOES TO KEEP THINGS RUNNING AS SMOOTHLY AS POSSIBLE.

## GOOD LUCK TO ALL CANDIDATE NOMINEES!



## King County Subsection

2024 is flying by! With our 28th Annual KCSS Golf Tournament behind us, the Board will be focusing on planning and budgeting for the upcoming year. The next big event on the calendar is the Water Olympics in March 2025, but be sure to Join the King County Subsection email list for more social events and educational training in this last quarter of 2024.

### Events

#### **Golf Tournament Success – 28th Annual KCSS Golf Tournament!**

On behalf of the King County Subsection, PNWS-AWWA membership, and officers, we would like this opportunity to express our sincerest appreciation to our sponsors for the 2024 PNWS-AWWA Charity Golf Tournament at the Auburn Course in Auburn, WA. We are so grateful for the presence and support

of our membership for a great cause! This is by far our Subsection's largest fundraiser and enables us to consistently donate to the Section's philanthropic efforts within the water industry, including Water For People, the Water Equation, and the PNWS E&T Fund. Stay tuned for the Winter edition of *Water Matters* for pictures and news from the event!

### How to Get Involved

#### **New Members**

Welcome new members! If you are a new member of the King County Subsection, we would love to get you connected and learn more about your interests. Join us at our next quarterly in-person lunch meeting on October 16, 2024, to learn more. If you are interested in attending this or any of these meetings, contact the Subsection's Secretary, Chris Guest, at [chris.guest@covingtonwater.com](mailto:chris.guest@covingtonwater.com).

### Future Training:

The Subsection is committed to offering classes to help our members meet their CEU requirements. The goal of our Board is to offer at least four classes within the calendar year. Look for further announcements and registration information, including our upcoming Lunch & Learn. For questions about classes, whether that's an idea for a class, a suggestion for speakers, or general information about training and CEUs, please contact our Program Director, Henry Ricca, at [hricca@hazenandsawyer.com](mailto:hricca@hazenandsawyer.com).

### KCSS Board Transitions and Recruitment

Grace Crowe was voted in as the King County Subsection Young Professional Liaison. She will continue her role as the Philanthropic Advisory Committee (PAC) rep until a replacement can be found. Please contact Chris Guest at [chris.guest@covingtonwater.com](mailto:chris.guest@covingtonwater.com) if you are interested in becoming a KCSS Board member. 📧

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## Oregon Water Utility Council

The Oregon Water Utility Council (OWUC) welcomed a new Board: Chair Rebecca Geisen of Portland Water Bureau, Vice-Chair Adam Denlinger of Seal Rock Water District, and Secretary Mike Buettner of the City of Bend. There has not been much downtime for OWUC members,

who usually enjoy a bit of a break during the summer. OWUC has been actively engaged with providing state agency partners with critical feedback on new groundwater allocation rules and instream water rights applications. OWUC also hosted Oregon's Chief Information Security Office,

Ben Gherezgiher, who shared critical state and federal resources for water providers to strengthen their cyber resiliency and discussed Oregon's cybersecurity action plan. OWUC is gearing up for the upcoming 2025 legislative session and busy election season. [📄](#)

## South Sound Subsection



South Sound Subsection 11th Annual Charity Golf Tournament, held Friday, July 12, 2024, at Oakbrook Golf Club in Lakewood, WA, was a resounding success, drawing in golf enthusiasts and philanthropists alike.

120 golfers participated in the tournament, enjoying a day of friendly competition on the picturesque 18-hole course. The weather was perfect, contributing to the event's festive atmosphere. Players of all skill levels participated, forming teams that competed in a best-ball format. In addition to the golf, the tournament featured various on-course challenges, including sponsor hole contests, longest drive, and closest-to-the-pin, adding excitement to the day. New this year was a prestigious 'most honest team' award to the last place team, a new set of playschool clubs!

After the tournament, participants and supporters gathered for a dinner and awards ceremony. Prizes were awarded to the top teams and

individual contest winners. A raffle further contributed to the fundraising efforts, offering items donated by local businesses and supporters.

Thanks to the generosity of sponsors, participants, and volunteers, the tournament raised over \$5,000. The proceeds will benefit the Living Access Support Alliance (LASA) and the PNWS's philanthropic efforts. Our team of organizers would like to express our gratitude to everyone involved. Your hard work made the tournament a huge success. We would also like to thank our sponsors, as we could not do this without you all. All funds raised will make a significant impact in the community.

The success of this year's tournament has already sparked plans for next year's event, with hopes of raising even more funds for charity. The golf tournament continues to be a highlight in our Subsection, combining the love of golf with the spirit of giving; some may even call it a great fundraising PAR-TEE!

### Upcoming Training and Events

The South Sound Subsection has many trainings on the horizon; please watch the website for more information. We hope to do some outreach events around the South Sound counties; please contact

Shantel Broussard, South Sound Subsection President, if you'd like to help coordinate an event in your area.

### 2024 ACE Representation

Lastly, congratulations to all the competitors at ACE! The South Sound was strongly represented by Tacoma Water teams: Meters (2023 National Champ Carlos Camacho, Robert Maurer, Coach Chris Hicks), Women's Hydrant Hysteria (Erica Geske, Bree Escarcega, Coach Ray Hogue), and Men's Pipe Tapping (Mike McCaffrey, Doug Reed, Robert Maurer, Coach Ken Young). Congratulations to the Tacoma Water Women's pipe-tapping team consisting of Jessa Messer, Sami Pielak, Sarah DeGidio, and Coach Geff Yotter, the 2024 National Champions! Well done, teams! [📄](#)





### Subsection Advisory Council

The Subsection Advisory Council (SAC) wants to thank our former Chair, Brian Wilson, for his time and dedication in service to PNWS-AWWA. We're pleased to congratulate Brian on his appointment as Washington Trustee and welcome his ongoing support. Amerika Stodola (formerly the King County Subsection Treasurer) has stepped into the SAC Chair role and is excited to dive into her new position. Amerika works at Covington Water District as a Finance Analyst and has been in the water industry for almost 20 years.

#### Subsection Planning

As we move through this year, our main goal will be to determine how the SAC is successfully serving our members and, specifically, which areas we can improve to better represent our Subsections. Reaching out to former SAC members, Subsection representatives, PNWS members, and Trustees to begin performing a SWOT analysis (diet version) has been the first step. Turns out, we have a solid foundation and are looking for the same basic results: to streamline expectations, understand roles, encourage participation, collaboration, communication, pool section resources, promote inclusivity, and ultimately adapt to the feedback. Each new Subsection 'term' welcomes reinventing the wheel, and having a basic understanding can lessen potential stress and burnout.

#### Subsection Engagement

PNWS has a strong history of participation as a volunteer organization,

and ensuring our commitment is at its highest and most functional will contribute to the 'greater good' of AWWA. PNWS is unique in that we have twelve Subsections. These Subsections allow us to participate geographically in several areas while collaborating with both neighboring and far-reaching Subsections.

#### Subsection Meetings

Amerika has begun reaching out to each Subsection to occasionally sit in on their meetings and 'sample the flow' to see how individual groups function and is looking forward to seeing how we can connect. If you want to know how other Subsections are operating, consider asking for an invitation to their next meeting. For more information, please visit [www.pnws-awwa.org/member-groups/subsections](http://www.pnws-awwa.org/member-groups/subsections).

#### SAC Meetings

The SAC will continue holding our meetings on the last Thursday of each quarter's end (date subject to change) at 10 am, inviting the Subsection boards to discuss best practices for communication, coordination, training, networking and professional events, and general sharing of ideas. We'll focus primarily on the upcoming three months. Every member is encouraged to participate. Feel free to invite others as your Board sees fit.

Doug Schlepp and Jorge Miranda from the Membership Engagement Development Committee (MEDC)

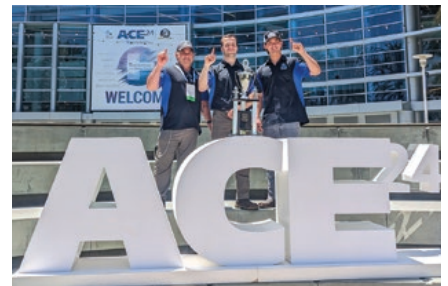


Photo credit: Jolene Gibson, Operations Manager

presented at the last SAC meeting to welcome the new Subsection Boards and give an overview of how MEDC can assist in new memberships. We'd like to continue seeing committees spotlighted in future meetings, so please reach out if you'd like to present to the group.

#### Competitions

Congratulations to the Competition participants from ACE 2024. PNWS was well represented, with a great turnout in Anaheim! Visit [www.awwa.org/ace/competitions/competition-winners](http://www.awwa.org/ace/competitions/competition-winners) for specific details and to claim bragging rights for our Section. Looking forward to the next round.

#### Opportunities to Participate

Want to attend our meetings? Have an interest in sharing information with the Subsections? Have tips or tricks? Recommendations for events? Requests? Interested in joining the SAC? Feel free to reach out at [amerika.stodola@covingtonwater.com](mailto:amerika.stodola@covingtonwater.com). For more information, please visit [www.pnws-awwa.org/member-groups/committees/subsection-advisory-council](http://www.pnws-awwa.org/member-groups/committees/subsection-advisory-council).

### Southern Oregon Subsection

The 12th Annual Water for People Golf Tournament, hosted by the Southern Oregon Subsection, was a big success! With 57 golfers and 19 sponsors, the event raised \$9,971 in sponsorship and \$3,744 in donations and prizes. The net proceeds of \$7,500 will benefit Water For People.

A big thanks to all the participants and sponsors for making this such a great event.

Most recently, we held our Subsection's quarterly meeting on September 5, 2024. The meeting was hosted by the Coos Bay North Bend Water Board and offered the opportunity to visit the coast and network with local members!





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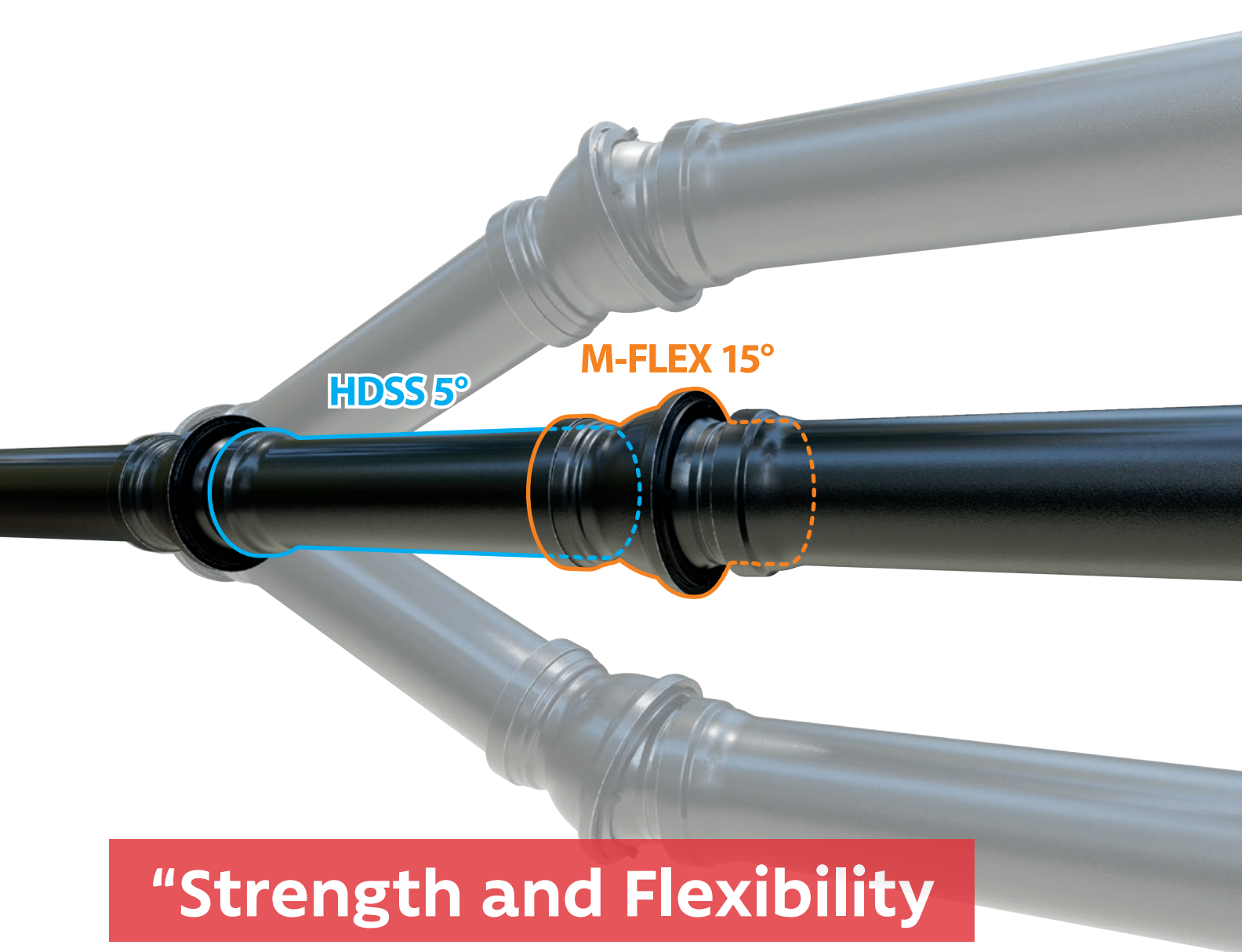
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