

## NEWWA IT/OT Committee

### Timeline and Summary of Activities Update (August 2025)

The NEWWA IT/OT Committee has remained actively engaged in advancing the water industry's technological capacity through planning and executing professional development programming, collaborating across committees, and shaping the upcoming 2025 IT & Asset Management Fair. This update summarizes activities since the last report submitted in March 2025, including the committee's recent meetings, agenda development, and continued emphasis on hands-on, innovative learning.

#### **2025 IT & Asset Management Fair – Final Program Planning**

The committee finalized the agenda for the 2025 NEWWA/NEWEA IT & Asset Management Fair, scheduled for October 8, 2025, at the NEWWA Training Center in Holliston, MA. Key accomplishments since March include:

- **Agenda Development:** The finalized program includes a balance of panel discussions, technical presentations, and interactive learning stations.
- **Abstract Review and Speaker Coordination:** The committee coordinated with selected presenters to refine session content, focusing on AI applications, cybersecurity, leak detection, GIS integration, and emerging sensor technology.
- **Learning Stations:** Demo topics include:
  - AI-powered system monitoring and alerting
  - Real-time leak detection dashboards
  - Mobile field data tools and GIS
  - Operational dashboards for wastewater utilities

#### **Committee Engagement & Planning Meetings**

The IT/OT Committee held multiple planning meetings during Spring and Summer 2025 to finalize event structure and logistics:

- **Kickoff Meeting (April 2025):** Focused on brainstorming topics, issuing the Call for Papers, and reviewing 2024 Fair feedback to shape this year's priorities.
- **Subsequent Coordination (May–August 2025):**
  - Collected and reviewed abstracts
  - Organized logistics with NEWWA staff and outside vendors
  - Conducted follow-up meetings to finalize hands-on learning station commitments

## **Call for Papers and Abstract Management**

The committee issued and promoted a Call for Papers in Spring 2025 with a submission deadline of May 1. Key focus areas requested included:

- *Storm event emergency response technologies*
- *AI for operations and decision-making*
- *Incremental progress in project execution*
- *Cybersecurity implementation and monitoring*

Final selections were made in early summer to shape the current program.

## **Summary**

Since the March 2025 report, the IT/OT Committee has finalized the structure, content, and logistics for the 2025 IT & Asset Management Fair, while continuing to emphasize hands-on learning, case studies, and emerging technology. Through consistent engagement and strategic collaboration, the committee continues to advance the role of information and operational technology in water utility management.

The October 2025 Fair will reflect attendee feedback, incorporate evolving regulatory and technological needs, and provide an engaging forum for knowledge-sharing across disciplines.

*Respectfully submitted:*

*Louis Schoolcraft II, Chair – NEWWA IT/OT Committee*