



Specialty Symposium: Building a Sustainable & Resilient Water System

Brought to you by NEWWA's Distribution and Storage Committee
8:30 AM - 2:45 PM, Earn 4.25 TCHs (pending approval from state agencies)

October 7, 2026 | NHDES Portsmouth Regional Office

222 International Drive, Suite 175, Portsmouth, NH 03801

SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

- Keynote Speaker – Steve Estes-Smargiassi
- "Sustainably Managed Utility"
- "Water Resilience & Adaptation"
- "Creating a Culture through Asset Management with a Limited Workforce: Work Smarter, Not Harder"
- "Capital Planning & Financial Strategies"
- Speaker Panel
- "Breakout Session – Pathways to Sustainability"
- Closing Statements



SEE FULL AGENDA ON THE REVERSE SIDE.

REGISTER AT [NEWWA.ORG](http://newwa.org) OR COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM BELOW.

REGISTRATION FORM				
Building a Sustainable & Resilient Water System — October 7, 2026				
3 WAYS TO REGISTER!				
Register online at newwa.org	Complete this form, scan, and return by email to ktodesco@newwa.org .		Complete this form and return by fax to 508.893.9898	
CONTACT INFORMATION (Please print clearly.)				
Name	Title		Nickname	
Company				
Address		City	State	Zip
Phone	Fax	Email		Member #
MEMBER / NON-MEMBER FEES:		NEWWA Member Fee @ \$195		Non-Member Fee @ \$335
PAYMENT INFORMATION				
☐ Personal Check (Payable NEWWA) ☐ Company Check ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover				TOTAL PAYMENT
Credit Card #		Exp. Date	CVV:	Signature
ADA: If you have a disability and need accommodations to participate in one of NEWWA's events, please contact NEWWA at 508.893.7979 before the start of the event so proper arrangements can be made. Dietary Restrictions: Please email KTodesco@newwa.org at least one week before the event if you have any dietary restrictions. Photograph and Information Release: Photographs will be taken at this event. By registering for this event you agree to allow NEWWA to use your photo in any NEWWA-related publication or social media site. NEWWA's Cancellation Policy: Any registration cancellation is assessed a \$30.00 administrative fee. If you cancel within one (1) business day of the event or training you will be charged 100 percent of the original registration fee. This charge is non-refundable and non-transferable. Written refund/credit requests made for special circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.				

Registrations received two days or less to the start of the symposium will be assessed a \$20 late fee.
QUESTIONS? Contact Katelyn Todesco, Events & Marketing Manager, at ktodesco@newwa.org.

Building a Sustainable & Resilient Water System

October 7, 2026 | NHDES Portsmouth Regional Office

About the Symposium

Building a Sustainable & Resilient Water System is a new event introduced in 2026 by NEWWA's Distribution and Storage Committee, focused on advancing sustainable practices and long-term resilience in drinking water systems.

Taking place on October 7, this program brings together industry experts and utility professionals to share practical strategies for infrastructure management, water quality, and financial planning in an evolving landscape. The morning features a keynote and expert-led presentations highlighting real-world case studies and innovative approaches.

The afternoon includes an interactive speaker panel and a collaborative breakout session, giving attendees the opportunity to exchange ideas, tackle challenges, and explore pathways to sustainability.

This new event offers valuable insights, networking, and tools to help water professionals strengthen and future-proof their systems.

SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

"Building a Sustainable & Resilient Water System"

Welcome, Introduction, and Learning Outcomes

8:30 AM JOE DUNCAN, General Manager, Champlain Water District, VT

Keynote Speaker

8:45 AM STEVE ESTES-SMARGIASSI, Interim Executive Director, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, Chelsea, MA

"Sustainably Managed Utility"

9:30 AM BRAD PERRON, Deputy Director, Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board, Salem, MA and JOHN FORTIN, Hazen and Sawyer
The Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board has been providing reliable drinking water to nearly 90,000 residents for over 110 years. In 2001 a new leadership team embarked on an aggressive program of work to ensure sustainable and resilient operations today and into future. After five years of transformation efforts, the Board is a three-time award recipient for their unique and tireless efforts. The presentation will highlight the Board's implementation program including approaches, successes, and lessons learned.

10:00 AM "Water Resilience & Adaptation"

BRANDON KERNEN, Administrator, NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau, Portsmouth, NH

Learn how NHDES is supporting New Hampshire utilities in building water resilience and adapting to emerging contaminants and changing source water conditions. This presentation will highlight statewide evaluations, technical guidance, and regionalization efforts that help communities manage water quality and quantity challenges. Discover practical initiatives and collaborative strategies that strengthen system preparedness for current and future risks while ensuring reliable, safe water for all.

10:30 AM Break

10:45 AM "Creating a Culture through Asset Management with a Limited Workforce: Work Smarter, Not Harder"

ERIN HOLMES, Director of Engineering and Environmental Services, and NOAH WALDRON, EIT, Engineer II Pennichuck Water Company, Nashua, NH

By leveraging staff expertise, advanced analytics, and real-time monitoring, Pennichuck is shifting to a more proactive approach to managing and maintaining horizontal and vertical infrastructure. This strategy aims to reduce emergency or unplanned repairs and strengthen trust with customers and regulatory agencies. This talk will outline the challenges, successes, and overall strategy guiding Pennichuck's "AMP'd" team as they advance this critical work.

11:15 AM "Capital Planning & Financial Strategies"

ADAM SIMONSEN, Trinnex

This session will explore practical strategies for aligning utility rate structures with long-term capital improvement plans to ensure financial sustainability and affordability. The discussion will include real-world examples illustrating how utilities have phased rate adjustments to support major capital investments while managing customer impacts.

12:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM Speaker Panel of Morning Presenters

This interactive panel features the morning's expert speakers, ready to answer your questions on building resilient and sustainable water systems. Gain practical insights into asset management, water quality, capital planning, and workforce strategies. Bring your challenges and ideas—panelists will share real-world solutions and lessons learned to help your utility strengthen operations and adapt to evolving needs.

1:30 PM Breakout Session – Pathways to Sustainability

In this breakout session, participants will be given a scenario and collaborate in groups representing large and small water systems. Each group will discuss how to manage the scenario, explore unique challenges and needed changes, and identify top issues facing their systems. The activity is designed to foster teamwork and generate practical, actionable strategies for resilience, sustainability, and operational success in diverse utility settings.

2:30 PM Closing Statements

2:45 PM Adjourn