2027 Call for Content



wefevents

COLLECTION SYSTEMS, STORMWATER, AND WATERSHED CONFERENCE

The Collection Systems, Stormwater, Watershed (CSSW) Conference convenes leaders in collection systems, stormwater, and watershed management to advance innovative solutions to water challenges that help build resilience and advance the circular water economy.

To support a more integrated, holistic approach to solving water challenges, we invite practitioners and partners working across the entire water cycle to share real-world lessons, propose innovative ideas, and help shape a more connected, future-ready 2027 program. In addition to submissions focusing specifically on collection systems, stormwater and watershed management, submissions are also encouraged on the following topics: water resources management; groundwater and source–water protection; hydrologic and hydraulic modeling; climate adaptation and flood risk management; and decentralized/ distributed systems for small systems.

We welcome abstracts and proposals from utility and water professionals, consultants, technology providers, academics, and regulators for interactive, forward-thinking sessions that advance practical solutions and strengthen community resilience. The technical program will consist of 28 technical sessions and 3 workshops – accepted submissions will fill these slots.

Call for Content Timeline

OCT.	NOV.	FEB.	APR.	MAY
Call for Content Opens	Nov. 30th: Submission Deadline	Submitters notified of acceptance or rejection.	Accepted abstract authors final technical paper due	May 19-21 CSSW Conference in Indianapolis, IN.

Submission Types



INDIVIDUAL ABSTRACT

Due: 9:00 AM ET / November 30, 2026

Accepted abstract submissions will be paired with 1–2 other individual abstract submissions to develop one technical session. Accepted speakers will be expected to coordinate with fellow session speakers.

Must include an author, co-author, and maximum of two speakers.

Abstracts shall be no longer than 9,000 characters. Tables, graphics, and/or images will not count towards this number and are submitted separately from the abstract text within our system.

Some accepted abstract speakers will be expected to participate in interactive activities during the technical session to help facilitate adult learning.

SESSION PROPOSAL

Due: 9:00 AM ET / November 30, 2026

Accepted session proposal submissions will become a full 90-minute technical session. Proposal facilitators will be expected to coordinate with WEF staff and conference planning committee members to finalize session agenda.

Must include a maximum of three speakers, two facilitators, and complete agenda (90-minute session). Agendas must consist of a cohesive theme or topic with the goal of encouraging knowledge exchange among session participants.

Description should not be longer than 9,000 characters (approx. 1,000 words).

Proposal speakers and facilitators must have diversity of utilities, organizations, backgrounds, and experiences. Meaning the session should not all represent the same utility, consulting organization, or manufacturer

WORKSHOP

Due: 9:00 AM ET / November 30, 2026

Accepted workshop submissions will become half-day or full-day pre-confecture events. Workshop facilitators will be expected to work alongside WEF staff to produce an interactive workbook for all workshop participants.

Agendas must consist of a cohesive theme or topic with the goal of encouraging knowledge of exchange among session participants.

Description should not be longer than 9,000 characters (approx. 1,000 words).

Proposal speakers and facilitators must have a diversity of utilities, organizations, backgrounds, and experiences. The session should not all represent the same utility, consulting organization, or manufacturer.

How to Submit



How to Submit

For submission tips and best practices visit our **Submission Guidelines.**
All submission types should be submitted via **https://ww5.aievolution.com/wef/**
Paper or email submissions will not be accepted.

Submission Topics



AI & Intelligent/Smart Systems
Novel ways that AI and smart technologies have enabled utilities to optimize resource allocation, predict infrastructure failures, and address critical challenges like water scarcity and aging infrastructure. Submissions should highlight innovative solutions that can be applied to other utilities to help educate and expand the use of AI throughout the industry.

**Asset Management, Rehabilitation, Trenchless Technologies & Gray Systems **
Leading-edge stormwater and collection systems asset management including CMOM programs, trenchless technologies for rehabilitation and installation, with an emphasis on innovations that extend lifecycles and minimize disruptions. Submissions must include case studies demonstrating deployments that quantify gains in efficiency, cost savings, and environmental benefits across various settings.

Climate Change Resilience and Tidal & Sea Level Rise Impact
Engineering and operational strategies that improve collection and stormwater system resilience to climate driven challenges including flooding, tidal impacts and sea level rise. Submissions are encouraged to highlight climate informed planning, modeling, design and adaptive approaches. Case studies should demonstrate measurable improvements (through monitoring, modeling, or post event evaluations) in system reliability, flood protection, risk reduction and long-term performance.

Community Engagement, Service Equity & Safety
Strategies to connect wastewater and stormwater programs with residents, workers and local partners to shape decisions, priorities and drive success of implementation. Submissions should highlight strategies, case studies and lessons learned related to inclusive outreach, fair distribution of services and investments, protection of the public and field staff and effective communication around system risks, maintenance activities and storm events.

Submission Topics



Design & Construction
Innovative design methodologies and construction approaches that improve build quality, system resiliency, and long term performance of collection system and stormwater infrastructure. Submissions may explore advances in materials science, construction sequencing, alternative delivery methods, quality assurance technologies, and the integration of digital engineering platforms. Case studies should provide clear, data-supported outcomes such as improved constructability, enhanced system functionality, reduced lifecycle costs, optimized maintenance planning, and long-term asset sustainability within varied operating conditions.

Funding & Financial Planning
Cutting-edge funding initiatives for collection system and stormwater improvements, including financing options and adaptive methods that evolve with fiscal and regulatory conditions in the current market. Case studies should illustrate scalable implementations, performance metrics, and adaptive approaches that have successfully supported resilient upgrades.

Green Infrastructure, Wetlands Restoration & Nature Based Solutions
Innovative and practical applications of green infrastructure, wetlands and stream restoration and other nature-based solutions that address management of stormwater quantity, water quality, and watershed health. Submissions should highlight case studies, performance data, lessons learned and scalable approaches that demonstrate real-world benefits and transferable outcomes for stormwater and collections system managers and decision-makers.

Integrated Planning, Regulatory & Programmatic Innovations
Innovative approaches to integrated water resource planning that promotes coordination across systems, regulatory alignment, and long-term watershed-based decision-making. Submissions should highlight collaborative planning, programmatic improvements, and strategies that address affordability, competing priorities, and diverse stakeholder needs while supporting sustainable and resilient water resource management.

Modeling
Innovative applications of hydrologic and hydraulic modeling to support proactive planning, system optimization or reactive investigations within collections and stormwater systems. Submissions may highlight advances in automation and other AI enabled tools specifically related to modeling. Case studies should demonstrate improved decision-making, system understanding, operational efficiency, or infrastructure performance.

Odors, Air Pollutants & Public Outreach
Innovative technologies and operational strategies for monitoring and reducing odors, air pollutants, emissions, corrosion, and community impacts within collection systems. Submissions should highlight advances in treatment, modeling, sensors, and ventilation, supported by measurable results. Case studies should also demonstrate effective public outreach, stakeholder communication, and improved community relations.

Operators, Leading Operations, and Community Innovations
Operator-led innovations in operations, maintenance and leadership that improve system efficiency, safety, resilience and adaptability. Emphasize community innovations in collaborative platforms, upskilling initiatives, and decentralized solutions for resource management, equity, and/or processes amid environmental shifts. Case studies should detail quantifiable outcomes in performance, sustainability, and stakeholder impact across varied infrastructures.

Collection Systems and Stormwater BMP encouraged to submit abstract.

Submission Topics



Small Communities, Decentralized Systems and Management
Innovative approaches to planning, implementing, and managing decentralized water and wastewater systems in small communities. Submissions should highlight localized treatment and distribution solutions, effective operations and maintenance, regulatory compliance, and resource management strategies. Case studies should demonstrate measurable benefits for public health, environmental protection, affordability, resilience, and long-term sustainability.

Watershed Management
Comprehensive approaches to managing water resources that consider water quantity, water quality, and the interactions among water, land, and human activities. Submissions should highlight strategies such as One Water, integrated planning, watershed-based permitting, and other approaches that support holistic watershed management. Case studies may address green infrastructure, modeling, nutrient management, climate resilience, and other watershed-scale challenges, with emphasis on practical applications, lessons learned, and transferable outcomes.

Wet Weather Control, Urban Flooding & Surface Water Management
Strategies and solutions for managing wet weather impacts, including urban flooding, combined sewer overflows, influx and infiltration and surface water management challenges. Submissions may feature planning, design, modeling, operations and case studies that highlight effective approaches to reducing flooding risk, improving system performance, enhancing resilience and protecting communities during extreme weather events.