



## ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

### INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

February 2, 2026

To: Jennifer Hibit, Secretary to the Authority

From: Leonard F. Kowalski, PE, Executive Engineer *lfk*

Subject: Request to Attend 2026 AWWA Annual Water Event in Saratoga Springs, NY.

---

The AWWA Annual Water Event 2026 is scheduled for April 14-16, 2026 in Saratoga Springs, NY. The programs will cover a variety of infrastructure issues and solutions, including the latest cost-effective strategies to manage aging infrastructure, control water loss, protection of critical infrastructure, and financing capital projects and operations and maintenance activities.

These conferences will also provide an opportunity to meet with various utilities representatives and vendors and to get information on the new water utility processes, products, and services.

I am requesting Board Authorization to travel to the above-referenced conference for: Leonard F. Kowalski, PE, Executive Engineer. Daniel J. Seider, Director of Production, Mark D. Jarmuz, Sr. Distribution Engineer, Seth Krull, Production Engineer, Paul Miklos, WTPO Crew Chief, and Scott Klubek, Pump Mechanic Crew Chief.

#### Budget Information:

- Unit 2501 – 2025 O&M Budget Item 12 – Travel
- Unit 2501 – 2025 O&M Budget Item 37 Training
- Unit 1015 – 2025 O&M Budget Item 12 – Travel
- Unit 1015 – 2025 O&M Budget Item 37 Training

MJQ:jmf  
Attachments





## ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

January 29, 2026

TO: Jennifer Hibit, Secretary to the Authority

FROM: Sabrina A. Figler, Director of Water Quality

SUBJECT: Request for Ryan McKernan, Analytical Chemist and Dr. Clayton Rumsey, Analytical Chemist, to attend the NYSAWWA Annual Water Event in Saratoga Springs, NY

---

---

The NYAWWA Annual Water Event is scheduled for April 14 - 16, 2025. The Annual Water Event brings together utilities, vendors, the state DOH, and academia from across the state to share information, experience and research. This year's technical conference offers sessions in forever chemicals, DBP's, impacts of HAB's, climate change, and treatment options for PFAS/PFOA. Also, at this conference the NYSAWWA WUC, to which Ryan is a member, holds its annual spring meeting. In addition, the AWWA Young Professionals group is holding its summit, to which Clayton is a member. The conference also gives PE credits which Ryan needs to maintain his WTPO license.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sabrina Figler".

Sabrina A. Figler

### BUDGET INFORMATION: BUDGET YEAR 2026

Water Quality Unit 1030  
GL #: 401000 640212  
Remaining Balance: \$10,500.00

cc: Charles Eaton, Chief Operating Officer

**ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**  
**AUTHORIZATION FORM**  
**For Approval/Execution of Board Meeting Documents**

**Document Name:** NYSAWWA SARATOGA SP CONF      **Project No.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Description:** Approval for Ryan McKernan & Clayton Rumsey travel to Saratoga Springs Conference

### **Item Description:**

Choose one: Travel Request

Other:

## Action Requested:

Choose one    Board Approval

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Approvals Required:

## APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

- Chief Financial Officer
- Chief Operating Officer
- Claims Rep. – Risk Manager
- Comptroller
- Director of Administration
- Director of Distribution
- Director of Human Resources
- Director of IT
- Director of Operations
- Director of Planning & Water Supply
- Director of Production
- Director of Water Quality
- Executive Engineer
- General Counsel (Legal)
- Other:

	Date: _____
	Date: 2/3/2026
	Date: _____
	Date: _____
	Date: _____
	Date: 2/3/2026
	Date: _____
	Date: _____
	Date: _____
	Date: _____
	Date: _____

**APPROVED FOR BOARD RESOLUTION:**

Secretary to the Authority

Just His

Date: 2/3/2026

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Resolution Date: **Item No:**

# 2026 New York's Water Event C

**Tuesday, April 14, 2026 | Registration Open - 8:00 am | Committee Meetings - 9:00 am – 12:00 pm | Welcome**

8:30a-12:30p	YP Summit in Broadway (0.0)		
12:45-1:30p	Annual Business Meeting & Special Awards (0.0)		
1:30-2:45p	Session 1: Opening General Session   Keynote Address in Broadway (0.0)		
	Session 2: Water Quality & Treatment   Room: SCC 2A		
	Session 3: Utility Risk & Resilience   Room: Broadway		
3:00-3:30p	2 2.0 W 0.5 WW 2.0 PE	Treatment Improvements for Regional DBP Reduction	
3:30-4:00p		Rapid Deployment of Temporary Membrane Treatment Trailer for Emergency Capacity	
4:00-4:30p		Optimizing Water Treatment: A Novel Approach to Ion Exchange	
4:30-5:00p		Amperometric Sensor Technology: Considerations in Selection & Installation	
5:00-6:30p	Exhibit Hall Grand Opening		

**Wednesday, April 15, 2026 | Registration Open - 6:00 am | Breakfast – 7:00 am | Exhibit Hall - 9:30 am – 6:30 pm**

7:30-9:15a	Session 5: Regulatory and Funding Panel in the Safety Room (0.0)		
	Session 6: Treatment of PFAS & 1,4 Dioxane   Room: SCC 2A		
9:30-10:00a	6A 1.0 W 0.5 WW 1.0 PE	Lessons Learned: Addressing some of the Unexpected Challenges of Implementing PFAS Treatment	OWW TBD W TBD WW TBD PE
10:00-10:30a		1,4 Dioxane & PFAS Treatment for the City of Camden's Largest WTP	One Water Workforce: Water Fundamentals: Building the Workforce of Today and Tomorrow
10:30-11:00a	Break in the Exhibit Hall   Hydration Station		
11:00-11:30a	6B 1.0 W 0.5 WW 1.0 PE	Pressure Vessels or Gravity Contactors: Choosing the Right PFAS Approach	OWW   Room: Broadway
11:30a-12:00p		Characterization of PFAS in Foam Forming on the Surface of the Finger Lakes	Top Ops Room: Sara Balliro
12:00-1:30p	Lunch in the Exhibit Hall   Hydration Station		
	Session 9: Innovative Technologies   Room: Broadway		
1:30-2:00p	9A 0.5 W 0.0 WW 1.0 PE	A Portable RPA-CRISPR/Cas 12a-Based Biosensing Platform for on-site Detection of the Microcystin	10A 1.0 W 0.0 WW 1.0 PE
2:00-2:30p		Bioaugmentation as a Biosolids Management & PFAS Risk Reduction Strategy	We Bought a Water System! How the Town of Minerva Got a Private Water Company
2:30-3:00p	Break in the Exhibit Hall   Hydration Station		
3:00-3:30p	9B 1.0 W 0.5 WW 1.0 PE	A New Approach to Water Loss	10B 1.0 W 0.5 WW 1.0 PE
3:30-4:00p		CCTV of Water Main: A New Tool in the Toolbox	How Clean is Too Clean? Field & Laboratory
4:00-6:00p	Reception in Exhibit Hall   Contests: Best Tasting Water		

**Thursday, April 16, 2026 | Registration Open – 8:00 am | Exhibit Hall - 8:00 am – 12:00 pm**

8:00-9:30a	Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall		
	Session 12: Utility Management & Administration   Room: SCC 2A		
9:30-10:00a	12 A 1.0 W 1.0 WW 1.0 PE	Build American Buy America: How Lessons Learned Impact Decision Makers	
10:00-10:30a		Funding the Flow: Balancing Investment Needs, Revenue, and Rate Stability	13 A 1.0 W 0.0 WW 1.0 PE
10:30-11:00a	Break in the Exhibit Hall		
11-11:30a	12B 1.0 W 1.0 WW 1.0 PE	Setting & Justifying Staffing Levels in Water & Wastewater Organizations	
11:30a-12p		Building Utility Resilience Through Communications with SIGNAL	13 B 1.0 W 0.5 WW 1.0 PE

**TRAVEL REQUEST**Date: 2/2/2026

Employee Name	Job Title	Department
Leonard Kowalski (2501/401000/662012)	Executive Engineer	Engineering
Daniel Seider (1015/401000/662012)	Director of Production	Production
Seth Krull (1020/401000/662012)	Production Engineer	Production
Mark Jarmuz (2501/401000/662012)	Sr. Distribution Engineer	Engineering
Paul Miklos (1015/401000/662012)	WTPO Crew Chief	Production
Scott Klubek (1020/401000/662012)	Pump Mechanic Crew Chief	Production

Destination: Saratoga Springs, NYIs this training needed to meet professional licensing requirements? Yes

Description of training or business, and reasons and benefits of attendance:

2026 New York's Water Event Conference - annual water conference that provides training in multiple aspects of the water industry. Continuing education hours for engineers are available and contact hours operators license are also available.

**Dates of Travel**

From: 4/13/2026 - D. Seider/ Paul M. To: 4/16/2026 Total number of business days: 3  
4/14/2026 - remainder of group

**Estimated Cost**Transportation \$ 300 Hotel Accommodations \$ \$2,500 Meals \$ 1,200**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST \$ 4,000 W/ REGISTRATION FEE \$ 6,550**

Balance in the training budget prior to this trip \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Number See above Primary Number See above G/L Number See above**Comments** (i.e. spouse traveling, preferences): \_\_\_\_\_**Approvals**

Department Head Leonard Kowalski Date 2/2/2026  
 Director of Human Resources Just Hiza Date 2/3/2026  
 Secretary Just Hiza Date 2/3/2026

**TRAINING REQUEST**Date: 2/2/2026

Employee Name	Job Title	Department
Leonard Kowalski (2501/401000/640237)	Executive Engineer	Engineering
Daniel Seider (1015/401000/640237)	Director of Production	Production
Seth Krull (1020/401000/640237)	Production Engineer	Production
Mark Jarmuz (2501/401000/640237)	Sr. Distribution Engineer	Engineering
Paul Miklos (1015/401000/640237)	WTPO Crew Chief	Production

Scott Klubek (1020/401000/640237) Pump Mechanic Crew Chief Production

**Dates of Training**From: 4/14/2026 To: 4/16/2026 Total number of business days: 3**Training requests which require overnight accommodations must be accompanied by a Travel Request form.****Training Information**Title of Course(s) 2026 New York's Water Event ConferenceDescription NYSAWWA annual water conferenceIs this course needed to meet continuing education or contact hour requirements? YesHow many credit hours will you receive? Approximately 8, depends on which sessions are attendedHow many credits (per year) required for your license? 12 for PFHow many credits do you have year-to-date? Varies with each employeeAre there 2 or more people attending this seminar? YesAre there concurrent sessions? YesWhy is there a need for 2 or more people to attend this seminar? Continuing education and contact hour requirements**Estimated Cost**Registration Fee \$ \$425 x 6 = \$2,550 Mileage & Tolls \$ 300**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST \$ 2,850**

Balance in the training budget prior to this trip \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Number See above Primary Number See above G/L Number See above**Approvals**Department Head \_\_\_\_\_ *Leonard F. Kowalski* \_\_\_\_\_ Date 2/2/2026Director of Human Resources \_\_\_\_\_ *Just HSA* \_\_\_\_\_ Date 2/3/2026Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ *Just HSA* \_\_\_\_\_ Date 2/3/2026

# TRAVEL REQUEST

Date: 1/28/2026

Employee Name	Job Title	Department
Clayton Rumsey	Analytical Chemist	Water Quality

Destination: NYS Annual AWWA Conference

Is this training needed to meet professional licensing requirements? No

Description of training or business, and reasons and benefits of attendance: Conference covering

current and emerging water quality concerns faced by similar water providers throughout NYS  
Young Professional summit for continued professional development.

## Dates of Travel

From: 4/13/26 To: 4/16/26 Total number of business days: 4

## Estimated Cost

Transportation \$100 Hotel Accommodations \$500 Meals \$400

**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST \$975- 1000 W/ REGISTRATION FEE \$1425- 1525**

Balance in the training budget prior to this trip \$10500

Unit Number 1030 Primary Number 401000 G/L Number 640212

**Comments** (i.e. spouse traveling, preferences):

---

---

## Approvals

Department Head  Date 1/29/2026

Chief Operating Officer  Date 2/3/2026

Secretary  Date 2/3/2026

# TRAVEL REQUEST

Date: 1/28/26

Employee Name	Job Title	Department
Ryan McKernan	ANALYTICAL CHEMIST	WATER QUALITY

Destination: NYSAWWA SARATOGA SPRINGS

Is this training needed to meet professional licensing requirements? YES

Description of training or business, and reasons and benefits of attendance: AS A MEMBER

OF WUC I WILL BE ATTENDING OUR MEETING. I WILL ALSO RECEIVE CONTACT HOURS FOR MY IA WTPO CERTIFICATION FOR SESSIONS.

## Dates of Travel

From: 4/13/26 To: 4/16/26 Total number of business days: 4

## Estimated Cost

Transportation \$ 100 Hotel Accommodations \$ 562.35 Meals \$ 200

**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST \$ 862.35 W/ REGISTRATION FEE \$ 1620.35**

Balance in the training budget prior to this trip \$ 10,500 1720.35

Unit Number 1030 Primary Number 401000 G/L Number 640212

**Comments** (i.e. spouse traveling, preferences):

## Approvals

Department Head Abigail Fisher Date 1/29/26

Chief Operating Officer Olivia Lopez Date 2/3/2026

Secretary Jessica Hiltz Date 2/3/2026

**TRAINING REQUEST****Date:** 1/28/2026

Employee Name	Job Title	Department
Clayton Rumsey	Analytical Chemist	Water Quality

**Dates of Training**From: 4/14/26 To: 4/16/26 Total number of business days: 3**Training requests which require overnight accommodations must be accompanied by a Travel Request form.****Training Information**Title of Course(s) NYS AWWA ConferenceDescription New York State's Annual AWWA Conference and Young Professionals SummitIs this course needed to meet continuing education or contact hour requirements? NoHow many credit hours will you receive? N/AHow many credits (per year) required for your license? N/AHow many credits do you have year-to-date? N/AAre there 2 or more people attending this seminar? YesAre there concurrent sessions? YesWhy is there a need for 2 or more people to attend this seminar? Multiple concurrent sections re: Water Quality concerns and current/future issues faced by similar water providers**Estimated Cost**Registration Fee \$ 425 Mileage & Tolls \$ 100**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST \$ 525**Balance in the training budget prior to this trip \$ 5400Unit Number 1030 Primary Number 401000 G/L Number 640237**Approvals**Department Head John Higley Date 1/29/2026Chief Operating Officer John Higley Date 2/3/2026Secretary John Higley Date 2/3/2026

## TRAINING REQUEST

Date: 1/28/26

Employee Name	Job Title	Department
Ryan McErlean	ANALYTICAL CHEMIST	WATER QUALITY

**Dates of Training**

From: 4/13/26 To: 4/16/26 Total number of business days: 4

**Training requests which require overnight accommodations must be accompanied by a Travel Request form.**

## Training Information

Title of Course(s) TREATMENT IMPROVEMENTS FOR REGIONAL DBP PRODUCTION, ETCNT LEAD + COPPER COMPLIANCE

Description DIFFERENT TREATMENT AND MONITORING TECHNIQUES FOR CONTAMINANTS, AND SESSIONS FOR LEAD AND COPPER AND LCR1 COMPLIANCE

Is this course needed to meet continuing education or contact hour requirements?  YES  NO

How many credit hours will you receive? APPROXIMATELY 8

How many credits (per year) required for your license? 10

How many credits do you have year-to-date? \_\_\_\_\_ 0

Are there 2 or more people attending this seminar?  YES

Are there concurrent sessions? YES

Why is there a need for 2 or more people to attend this seminar? WE WILL BE DIVIDING UP THIS CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### Estimated Cost

Registration Fee \$ 758<sup>00</sup> Mileage & Tolls \$ 100<sup>00</sup>

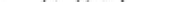
**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST \$** 858.00

Balance in the training budget prior to this trip \$ 5400

Unit Number 1030 Primary Number 101000 G/L Number 660237

## Approvals

Department Head Abu m. Faruk Date 12/4/20

Chief Operating Officer  Date 2/3/2026

Secretary  Date 2/3/2026