



5 CITIES PLUS

ST. LOUIS 2026

BUILDING ORGANIZATIONAL RESILIENCE

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2026

THE HYATT REGENCY AT THE ARCH

WWW.5CITIESPLUS.ORG

DAY 1 - SEPTEMBER 21ST

11:00AM - 2:00PM

GOLF TOURNAMENT AT THE HIGHLANDS

4:00PM - 7:00PM

CONFERENCE CHECK-IN

RECEPTION AREA ON 2ND FLOOR -
THE HYATT REGENCY AT THE ARCH

5:30PM - 9:00PM

WELCOME RECEPTION DINNER

- HYATT REGENCY ROOFTOP LOUNGE-18TH FL
- FOOD SERVED FROM 6PM UNTIL 8PM
- FULL SERVICE BAR AVAILABLE
- MUSIC PROVIDED BY DJ

DAY 2 - SEPTEMBER 22ND

7:30AM - 9:20AM

**BREAKFAST, CONFERENCE CHECK-IN, PLUS
OPENING PROGRAM**

2ND FLOOR RECEPTION & MAIN BALLROOM

- **9AM** - WELCOME ADDRESS BY BRET
BERTHOLD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PDH LINKS FOR CREDIT AVAILABLE DURING EACH PRESENTATION

TUESDAY PRESENTATIONS

Room E	Adapting to Climate Shifts
9:30 am - 10:00 am	<i>Coldwater Creek Water Backup Investigation</i> <i>Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District - Charles Pugh</i>
10:10 am - 10:40 am	Adapting Today, Protecting Tomorrow: Developing Sanitary and Stormwater Resiliency Strategies <i>Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District - Daniel Hearst and Jeff Riepe</i>
10:50 am - 11:20 am	<i>Updating Louisville MSD Design Standards: Changes and How to Apply Them</i> <i>Louisville Metropolitan Sewer District - Nicole Refolo</i>

Room A	Social Media and Customer Interaction
9:30 am - 10:00 am	Drops of Kindness - Getting Help Starts with One Simple Step <i>Louisville Metropolitan Sewer District/Louisville Water Company - Shannon Tivitt</i>
10:10 am - 10:40 am	REACHing Better Service: How Collaboration Transformed Customer Experience <i>Citizens Energy Group of Indianapolis - Rich Newell and Brad Hostetler</i>
10:50 am - 11:20 am	DigIndy is Finally Dug: The Community Reaction and Legacy of the DigIndy Tunnel System <i>Citizens Energy Group of Indianapolis - Ben Easley</i>

TUESDAY PRESENTATIONS

Room B	Resilient Asset Management Strategies - Part 1
9:30 am - 10:00 am	Beyond the Miles: Prioritizing What Matters Most <i>Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District - Brittnee Wilson</i>
10:10 am - 10:40 am	Building Resilience Through Risk-Based Interceptor Management and Emergency Response <i>Citizens Energy Group of Indianapolis - Olivia Hawbaker VanDuyn</i>
10:50 am - 11:20 am	Checking all the Boxes with a Mobile Platform Solution <i>Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District - Tony Strawhun and Nora Tochtrop</i>

11:30AM - 12:50PM

LUNCH BUFFET AND MIDDAY BREAK

- MAIN BALLROOM
- FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT - MSD PROJECT CLEAR PSA VIDEO SHOWCASE

TUESDAY PRESENTATIONS

Room E	Resilient Asset Management Strategies - Part 2
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Safeguarding the Bromley Force Main: Strategic Assessment and Planning for Long-Term Reliability <i>Sanitation District No. 1. of Northern Kentucky - Devon Robinson and Paul Michels(Black&Veatch)</i>
1:40 pm - 2:10 pm	Robust Approach to Sewer Separation Project Supports New Indianapolis Bus Line <i>Citizens Energy Group of Indianapolis - Jeremy Kosegi</i>
2:20 pm - 2:50 pm	Optimus Grime: Developing a Wet Weather Optimization Strategy <i>Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District - James Kauffman</i>

Room A	Resilience Through Standard Operating Procedures - Part 1
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Using Statistical Analysis to Make Sense of Big Data <i>Citizens Energy Group of Indianapolis - Mike Zielinski</i>
1:40 pm - 2:10 pm	Building Organizational Resilience Through SOPs: Lessons from a Multi-Year, Executive-Led Transformation <i>Louisville Metropolitan Sewer District - Angela Akridge and Carmen Moreno-Rivera</i>
2:20 pm - 2:50 pm	Tunnels to Treatment: Completing a 40-year Plan for the Lower Meramec Sewershed <i>Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District - Chris Pfeuffer, Erin Jearls(HDR), Everett Litton(WSP)</i>

Room B	Designing Resilient Wastewater and Stormwater Infrastructure
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Designing for Growth: The Midtown Regional Lift Station <i>Citizens Energy Group of Indianapolis - Allison Walker</i>
1:40 pm - 2:10 pm	Using 2D Hydraulic Modeling to Guide Climate-Ready Stormwater Infrastructure <i>City of St. Louis - Yeferson Parra, Andrea Godshalk, and Rashonda Alexander with Shailendra Singh and Priya Iyengar(Geosyntec)</i>
2:20 pm - 2:50 pm	The DigIndy Eagle Creek CSO Abatement Project <i>Citizens Energy Group of Indianapolis - Michael Miller</i>

~ AFTERNOON BREAK ~

TUESDAY PRESENTATIONS

Room E	Miscellaneous
3:20 pm - 3:50 pm	Scaling for the Future: Building Resilience through Regional Storage Solutions <i>Citizens Energy Group of Indianapolis - Payton Staman</i>
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Bioretention - Resiliency in Water Quality <i>Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District - Steve Roberts</i>
Room A	Public Health Pioneers
3:20 pm - 3:50 pm	Beyond COVID: Building Resilient Wastewater Surveillance via Metagenomics <i>Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District - Kim Duke and Mark Johnson(UofM Columbia)</i>
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Beyond Permit Compliance: Wastewater Surveillance in Northern Kentucky <i>Sanitation District No. 1. of Northern Kentucky - Sarah Griffith</i>
Room B	Designing Resilient Wastewater and Stormwater Infrastructure
3:20 pm - 3:50 pm	Small Shovel Big Hole - MSD's Small Contractor Program <i>Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District - Michael T. Buechter</i>
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	I-69 Finish Line: Utility Coordination On Beast Mode <i>Citizens Energy Group of Indianapolis - Mike Latos</i>

5:00PM - 9:00PM

ST. LOUIS UNION STATION

- SHUTTLE AVAILABLE
- DINNER SERVED 5:30-7:30PM
- FULL SERVICE BAR AVAILABLE 5-9PM
- HOURLY FIRE SHOW

OPTIONAL: MINI GOLF, FERRIS WHEEL,
AND CARNIVAL RIDES

DAY 3 - SEPTEMBER 23RD

7:30AM - 8:30AM

BREAKFAST

RECEPTION ON 2ND FLOOR

WEDNESDAY PRESENTATIONS

Room E	Organizational Resilience
8:20 am - 8:50am	Unreasonable Potential to Exceed <i>Citizens Energy Group of Indianapolis - Jeff Guinn</i>
9:00 am - 9:30 am	Institutional Resilience in Emergency Response through Team Design, Training, and Culture <i>Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District - Kyle Stammerjohn</i>
9:40 am - 10:10 am	KY CSO Community Coalition: Building Organizational Resilience through Policy, Partnership, and Progress <i>Louisville Metropolitan Sewer District - Stephanie Laughlin and Kevin Roberts(Henderson Water Utility)</i>

WEDNESDAY PRESENTATIONS

Room A	Miscellaneous
8:20 am - 8:50am	Designing A Tunnel to Last <i>Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District - Patricia Pride and Bill Haag(Jacobs)</i>
9:00 am - 9:30 am	Force Main Condition Assessment in Practice - 5 Cities 2026 <i>Citizens Energy Group of Indianapolis - Onkar Chavan and Allison Walker</i>
9:40 am - 10:10 am	From Control Rooms to Cloud: Uniting IT & OT for Water Resilience <i>Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District - Chris Wiwczaroski and Jason Stockmann</i>

Room B	Resilience Through Standard Operating Procedures - Part 2
8:20 am - 8:50am	Inspiring the Next Generation: Cultivating Long-Term Organizational Resiliency Through Targeted STEM Outreach <i>Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District - Jason Peterein, Jacques Kamaru, and James Van Nest</i>
9:00 am - 9:30 am	Building Organizational Resilience through Regional Integrated Planning in Decatur, Illinois <i>Sanitary District of Decatur - Kent Newton, Adrienna Nemura(Geosyntec), and David Diehl(Black&Veatch)</i>
9:40 am - 10:10 am	Making the Adjustment: Designing Pump Stations with Real World Data <i>Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District - Jeremy McCoy Jr., and Kyle Springli</i>

~ HOTEL CHECK-OUT BREAK ~

10:30AM - NOON

CLOSING PROGRAM

REGENCY MAIN BALLROOM

DIRECTORS 5CITIES REPORTS:

- CITIZENS ENERGY GROUP OF INDIANAPOLIS - JOHN TRYPUS
- LOUISVILLE METROPOLITAN SEWER DISTRICT - TONY PARROTT
- SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 1. OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY - ADAM CHANEY
- METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS SEWER DISTRICT - BRET BERTHOLD

12:30PM - 2:00PM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

- STERLING STUDIO 4
- LUNCH SERVED

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

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