

WATER SUPPLY ASSOCIATION - SPEAKERS PROGRAM

- 2026 AGM AND CONFERENCE - PRESTIGE LAKESIDE RESORT, NELSON

THURSDAY Oct. 29, 2026	Topic	Speaker	Organization	Description
9:00 - noon	Elected officials free time			Historic Nelson Main Street
8:00 am - 2:00 pm	Dam Safety Training	Kim Organ	Ministry of Water Land and Resource Stewardship	*See the training outline on the website for full details.*
8:45 am - 3:30 pm	Vendors - Training session on multiple topics	Numerous - See program	8 WSABC Suppliers	Join eight industry-leading manufacturers and suppliers for practical, hands-on training sessions designed specifically for water and wastewater operators. Topics include water meters, municipal pipe & fittings best practices, MJ fittings and restraints, metering pumps, Inserta-Tee installations, pressure management, hydrant maintenance, and bolted coupling applications. Gain practical knowledge, earn EOCP continuing education credits, network with peers, and explore the latest technologies at the trade show. See the website for full details and timelines.
12:00-1:00 PM	**LUNCH**			
1:00 - 3:30 pm	Morning training sessions continued			
1:30 PM	Water Supply Association - Annual General Meeting	Chair Bob Hrasko	WSABC	Annual General Meeting, Chairs Report, Presentation of Financial Statements, Elections of Directors, New Business
3:30 - 6:30 PM	TRADE SHOW	Hosts: James Kay / Patti Meger, WSABC	Trade show booths from suppliers manufacturers. Supplier Hosts with draw prizes	Trade show with suppliers booths of new product. Beverages, lively atmosphere in a busy room is standard operating procedure for this event.
7:00:00 PM Start	Banquet, Awards		WSABC	

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8:15	**Registration and Coffee**			
8:30	Welcome - WSABC Chair Welcome - City of Nelson	Bob Hrasko City of Nelson - TBA	WSABC City of Nelson	
8:45	*Summerland - Bald Range Fire - Insight to what happened and how the infrastructure and staff fared through the crisis.*	*Shawn Hughes* *Shawn Grundy* *to be confirmed*	*District of Summerland*	*On August 7, 2026, the Bald Range fire exploded and blew into Summerland. The community was evacuated and the water and electrical system, both run by the District, were under severe stress. This presentation provides insight on how the community fared, what preparation was in place before the fire and how the staff and infrastructure fared.*
9:15	Application of Biofiltration for Sustainable Drinking Water Production	Andrew Sheroubi	Delco Water, A Division of Delco Automation Inc.	With lower MAC limits now set for manganese, methods of lowering specific problematic parameters are needed to improve drinking water quality. This presentation covers groundwater biofiltration for the removal of iron, manganese, ammonia and arsenic.
9:45	Water Regulator Updates	Jennifer Beverley	Interior Health	Interior Health regulates all public water systems in the BC Southern Interior. This presentation is on their program updates, new 2026 Ministry of Health guidelines and the new Province-wide inspection data system that is being developed (Public Health Operations Compliance System- PHOCS).
10:05	**Networking Break (25 minutes)**			
10:30	*Supplying vs Restricting Water*	*Director led*	*GROUP DISCUSSION*	*Discuss means in which to lobby government on development of more reliable source water through tree canopy restoration, construction of storage of many different forms….*
11:00	Forests as Infrastructure: What the New Forest Act Would Change.	Jennifer Houghton	Boundary Forest Water Stewardship Society	Forest management directly affects water supply and watershed function. This presentation introduces the New Forest Act framework and how it would change BC forestry law to put ecological limits and watershed protection at the foundation of forest management.
11:30	Water Industry updates	Darcy Dion Katja Roberts	BCWWA / EOCP	Recent activities regarding structure and focus of the Organization. Strategic plan, requests by Coastal Water Suppliers Association, collaboration with BCWWA, Provincial small water systems survey, future focus of organization, discussion - feedback session. 2026 Lessons Learned....
12:00	**Lunch**			
1:00	Water Quality Management System Implementation	***Laith Furatian,*** ***Jamie Austin*** ***via Zoom***	Abbotsford / Mission Water and Sewer Services	Going back as far as Walkerton in 2002, the outcome of that failure in Ontario was the recommendation that all water utilities in Ontario develop a water quality management system to ensure the protection of drinking water. Some utilties in the west have voluntarily adopted the same approach. The District of Abbotsford will share their experience of implementation of such a system to increase protection for their community.
1:30	Remote Dam Monitoring Syst	Aaron Hahn	*Interior Dams*	Overview of remote monitoring technology and implementation in a pilot project.
2:00	**Break (15 minutes)**			
2:15	*The Future at your fingertips: Nelson's journey towards watershed awareness*	*Scott Eagleson*	*City of Nelson*	*Remote monitoring of the watershed.*

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2:45	*Provincial Drought Monitoring*	***Doris Leong and Calvin Beebe via Zoom***	*Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship*	*Provincial drought monitoring occurs across large scales, but the water scarcity risks and impacts that may emerge from drought are experienced locally. This presentation provides an overview of provincial drought operations and how they have shifted toward a greater focus on understanding local water scarcity risk, before looking at how drought unfolded across the Southern Interior in 2026, and how regional coordination efforts supported the broader drought response.*
3:15	*2026 Drought - Impact on Farmers in the North Okanagan* *VERY TENTATIVE !!*	*Chris Zabek, Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture*	*Ministry of Agiculture and Food*	*Presentation on the situation in the North Okanagan on the Salmon River and in the Greater Vernon service area. Lessons learned and how to reduce risks of the same in future years*
3:45	Wrap Up	Bob Hrasko	Chair WSABC	WINE DRAW and wrap up of the 2026 conference