

**2025 MWEA Preconference Preliminary Agenda
Tuesday April 22, 2025**

Preconference — Facing the Challenges of Public Works, Utility Management and Facility Operations	
Moderator: David Carlson, MWEA Preconference Committee Chair	
8:00 – 8:30	Welcome, Preconference David Carlson, MWEA Preconference Committee Chair
Session #1	Workforce Challenges - What we are facing, why it isn't new, and what we can do about it? Scott Buecker, MWEA National Delegate, AE2S
Session #2	Water Reclamation Facility Operations & Maintenance – Overcoming Challenges Speaker(s) Placeholder, City of Billings
BREAK	
Session #3	The Next Generation – Is someone coming to save us? Speaker Placeholder, MSU
Session #4	Water & Wastewater Operator Workforce Development & Apprenticeship Program Ben Rigby, Director/Montana Rural Water Systems
LUNCH BREAK (MEAL PROVIDED)	
Session #5	Montana Water & Wastewater Success and Headwinds Speaker Placeholder, MDEQ
Session #6	Launching a new stormwater utility – Reimagining existing systems to serve tomorrow's needs Speaker(s) Placeholder, City of Billings
BREAK	
Session #7	The Challenges of Directing Public Works Debi Meling, City of Billings Speaker Placeholder, City of Kalispell
Session #8	Utility Preparedness - Supply chain, natural disasters, regulations, workforce, & chaos. How to be best prepared? Topic & Speaker Placeholder
Session #9	Closing Session TDB – David Carlson
5:00PM	Ice Breaker – Beer/Wine & Appetizers

subject to change as details are finalized