



# 2025 SUSA ONE DAY SCHOOL

**Date: October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**

**Location: Maple Grove Public Works**

| Time        | Credit | Topic                 | Description                                                         | Speaker                     | Title                                                                         | Affiliate                     |
|-------------|--------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 6:30-7:00   | 0      | Registration          | Coffee/Donuts                                                       | ---                         | ---                                                                           | ---                           |
| 7:00-7:15   | 0      | Introductions         | Welcome                                                             | Abbie Browen                | SUSA President                                                                | City of Plymouth              |
| 7:15-8:00   | 0.75   | Valves and Gates      | Valve Solutions for Wastewater Systems                              | Joel Morgan                 | President                                                                     | Flow Control Automation, Inc. |
| 8:00-8:45   | 0.75   | Risk Management       | The Good and Bad of Sewer Maintenance                               | Troy Walsh                  | Loss Control Consultant                                                       | LMC                           |
| 8:45-9:30   | 0.75   | Coatings              | Paints and Coatings 101 – Preparation and Application               | Ryan Hanson, Casey Holter   | Protective & Marine Sales Rep., Water and Wastewater Asset Protection Manager | Sherwin Williams              |
| 9:30-9:45   | 0      | BREAK                 |                                                                     |                             | Break                                                                         |                               |
| 9:45-10:30  | 0.75   | Lift Stations         | Lift Station FOG Issues                                             | Joe Holz                    | Director of Sales                                                             | Kasco                         |
| 10:30-11:30 | 1.0    | MPCA                  | MPCA Exam Development                                               | James Lipps, Mamadou Diallo |                                                                               | MPCA                          |
| 11:30-12:15 | 0      | Lunch                 | Provided by Famous Dave's BBQ                                       | --                          | Lunch                                                                         | --                            |
| 12:15-1:00  | 0.75   | Manhole Repair        | Monoform Plus Manhole Rehabilitation                                | Jake Nanti                  | Regional Sales Manager – Municipal Services                                   | HK Solutions Group            |
| 1:00        | 0      | EXAM                  | <i>MDH Certification Exam</i>                                       | --                          | --                                                                            | --                            |
| 1:00-1:45   | 0.75   | Emergency Management  | The Disaster that Lurks Below – Understanding Underground Utilities | Kelley Janes                | Project Manager                                                               | AE2S                          |
| 1:45-2:15   | 0.5    | MCES Interceptors     | MCES Interceptor Overview                                           | Isaac Raser                 | Assistant Business Unit Manager                                               | MCES                          |
| 2:15-3:00   | 0      | Certificates & Raffle | Closing, certificates                                               | Abbie Browen                | SUSA President                                                                | City of Plymouth              |

## Training Objectives

The **SUSA One Day School** is a training event designed for water and wastewater professionals involved in collection systems and treatment operations. Through expert-led sessions, attendees will explore real-world topics such as valve and gate applications, sewer maintenance risk, FOG control, coatings and corrosion prevention, manhole rehabilitation, and underground utility awareness.

This year's program also includes an interactive feedback session with the MPCA to help shape future certification exams and ensure they reflect the skills operators use every day.

Whether you're a new operator or a seasoned professional, this event offers practical knowledge, peer connections, and tools you can take back to your community to improve system performance and public service.

By attending the SUSA One Day School, participants will:

- Understand how valves and gates improve system efficiency and flow control in wastewater systems
- Identify common causes of sewer claims and strategies to reduce liability through maintenance and documentation
- Learn proper preparation and application techniques for protective coatings in wastewater environments
- Explore effective, low-maintenance solutions to manage Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) in lift stations
- Contribute operator feedback to improve the relevance and accuracy of MPCA wastewater certification exams
- Gain insight into modern manhole rehabilitation technologies that extend asset life and reduce costs
- Recognize the emergency management risks associated with underground utilities and how to mitigate them
- Understand the scope, operations, and challenges of the MCES interceptor system serving the Twin Cities region
- Build peer connections and stay informed on current trends and technologies in wastewater operations

## Morning Session: Speakers and Presentations

### 7:00 – 7:15 AM – Introduction

**Speaker Bio:** Abbie Browen, Public Works Operations Manager, City of Plymouth

Abbie Browen is the Public Works Operations Manager for the City of Plymouth, where she oversees the operation and maintenance of critical infrastructure, including water, wastewater collection, storm and streets systems. She is currently the President of SUSA.

### 7:15 – 8:00 AM – Valve Solutions for Wastewater Systems

**Speaker Bio:** Joel Morgan, President, Flow Control Automation, Inc.

Joel Morgan is President of Flow Control Automation, Inc. (FCA), a representative and distributor of high-performance valves, gates, and flow control products for municipal and industrial water and wastewater systems. With over 25 years in the industry, Joel specializes in helping utilities improve performance with reliable sewage air release valves and other innovative flow control and automation solutions. Based in South Dakota, he leads FCA's efforts across the Upper Midwest, combining technical expertise with a commitment to customer support.

#### **Presentation Abstract:**

Joel Morgan will highlight the importance of air release valves in improving wastewater system efficiency and reliability. The session will cover how these components prevent air lock, reduce maintenance, and ensure safe flow control. Attendees will learn best practices, real-world case examples, and design tips to extend asset life and reduce operational costs in municipal and industrial systems.

## **8:00 – 8:45 AM – The Good and Bad of Sewer Maintenance**

### **Speaker Bio: Troy Walsh, Loss Control Consultant, League of MN Cities**

Troy is a Loss Control Consultant with the League of Minnesota Cities and has worked with cities on reducing their liability for over 10 years. Prior to joining the League, he worked for the City of Victoria in their Public Works Department. He has over 15 years of experience working in all aspects of Public Works from Parks to a Water Treatment Plant, to overseeing the Storm Water System and Street Maintenance. Troy is also an active Firefighter with the Carver Fire Department and recently retired from the Victoria Fire Department with 25 years of experience. Troy holds an associate's degree in Fire Science Technology from Hennepin Technical College, a maintains a Class-SC Wastewater License from the MPCA, and a Class-C Water License from the MN Dept. of Health.

### **Presentation Abstract:**

The Good and Bad of Sewer Maintenance is a brief overview of the LMC Sewer Toolkit. This presentation will review the Common Sewer Claims, Maintenance & Inspections of Wastewater Systems, Sewer Liability, Documentation, what the Wastewater Staff can do to minimize the liability to the City they work within.

## **8:45 – 9:30 AM – Wastewater Paints & Coatings 101: Preparation and Application**

### **Speaker Bio: Ryan Hanson, Protective& Marine Sales Representative, Sherwin Williams**

Ryan Hanson is a Protective & Marine Sales Representative with Sherwin-Williams, specializing in coatings for water and wastewater infrastructure. With over 17 years at Sherwin-Williams, Ryan has hands-on experience helping operators and public works teams find the right coating solutions for demanding environments. For the past 3+ years, Ryan has focused on supporting wastewater facilities across the region, providing corrosion-resistant coating systems for treatment plants, clarifiers, digesters, tanks, and other critical structures. He works directly with operators, maintenance crews, and engineers to recommend products that improve durability, extend service life, and reduce long-term maintenance.

### **Presentation Abstract:**

"Casey Holter and Ryan Hanson from the Sherwin-Williams Protective Marine Division, specializing in water and wastewater, will be leading the session. With extensive experience in the industry, we are well-versed in the latest trends in coatings, BABA compliance, and PFAS compliance. The session, titled 'Coatings 101,' will cover the various types of coatings, their compositions, and the rationale behind specifying different coatings for distinct applications. Please note, this is not a sales pitch, but an educational session designed to provide valuable insights."

## **9:45 – 10:30 AM – Lift Station FOG Issues**

### **Speaker Bio: Joe Holz, Director of Sales, Kasco Marine**

Joe Holz, BS in Environmental Science and Geography from Carroll University. Joe has been with Kasco Marine since 2002, beginning in a sales role and steadily advancing through the company due to his strong product knowledge, customer-first approach, and ability to support both technical and field-based solutions. He has worked with municipalities, engineers, and end users across the country to help solve water quality issues in stormwater ponds, wastewater lagoons, marinas, and industrial basins.

### **Presentation Abstract:**

Fats, Oils and Greases (FOG) have increasingly become a more difficult and costly issue to deal with for many municipalities. Failure to deal with the issues though causes even more headaches. Many solutions exist, but Kasco has a new, cost effective, easy to install, proven solution to continually agitate and prevent FOG. Learn about the current options and how Kasco's HydraForce can help save you time and money dealing with FOG. Results from a recent installation in Champlin will be presented.

## **10:30 AM – 11:30 AM – MPCA Wastewater Exam Development – Operator Feedback**

### **Speaker Bio:**

#### **James Lipps, Lead Certification & Training Specialist, MPCA**

Jimmy Lipps serves as a Certification Program Specialist at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, where he is instrumental in training curriculum development, exam content creation, and exam proctoring for water and wastewater operators. Holding a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Minnesota Duluth, Jimmy designs instructional materials that meet state and industry standards.

#### **Mamadou Diallo, Certification and Exam Development Specialist, MPCA**

Mamadou Diallo is a Certification & Exam Development Specialist at the MPCA, specializing in exam development, proctoring, and implementation of the national Need-to-Know (N2K) competency framework for operator certification. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Minnesota State University, Mankato, grounding his work in both environmental theory and regulatory best practices.

### **Presentation Abstract:**

This session invites wastewater operators to actively contribute to the ongoing development and improvement of sewer collection certification exams. Operators will engage in identifying the critical skills and knowledge essential to their daily work, helping ensure that exam content accurately reflects the real-world demands of the profession. Participants will collaborate to develop narratives that highlight the necessary duties, challenges, and best practices within sewer collection roles. By sharing their frontline experiences, operators will help shape exams that are relevant, practical, and supportive of professional growth.

## Afternoon Session: Speakers and Presentations

### **12:15 – 1:00 PM – Monoform PLUS™ - Ultimate Manhole Rehabilitation Solution**

**Speaker Bio:** Jake Nanti, Regional Sales Manager – Municipal Services, HK Solutions Group

Jake Nanti has been with HK Solutions Group since April 2019, serving as Regional Sales Manager for Municipal Services. In this role, he works closely with municipalities, utility managers, and contractors to deliver innovative and reliable infrastructure solutions tailored to water and wastewater systems. Jake holds certifications in NASSCO PACP, LACP, and MACP, reflecting his expertise in pipeline assessment and condition grading.

#### **Presentation Abstract:**

This presentation will cover the principles and benefits of cost-effective, durable manhole rehabilitation solutions for aging underground infrastructure. Attendees will learn about HK Solutions' Monoform and Monoform Plus systems, which offer 100% structural integrity and exceptional corrosion resistance. These innovative systems help ensure the longevity and sustainability of manhole rehabilitation projects, reducing maintenance costs and extending service life.

### **1:00 – 1:45 PM – The Disaster that Lurks Below – Understanding Underground Utilities**

**Speaker Bio:** Kelley Janes, Project Manager, AE2S

Kelley Janes has been with AE2S as a project manager for the last 10+ years. Prior to joining AE2S, he served in several utilities' supervisor and superintendent roles with municipalities. With 46 years of experience, Kelly also holds both a Class A Water and Class A Wastewater Certification with Minnesota, and has been certified in NASSCO PACP, MACP, and LACP inspections. Kelley has a passion for educating operators and has been a major contributor to wastewater certification prep classes over the years.

#### **Presentation Abstract:**

Underground utilities—such as water, sewer, and fiber—pose hidden risks that can quickly escalate emergencies if not properly accounted for. This session explores how these systems impact emergency management and why coordination between utility operators and emergency responders is critical. Attendees will learn about the vulnerabilities of underground infrastructure, how utility damage can disrupt emergency response, and best practices for integrating utility awareness into preparedness and response plans.

### **1:45 – 2:30 PM – MCES Interceptor System Overview**

**Speaker Bio:** Isaac Raser, Assistant Business Unit Manager, MCES

Isaac Raser is the Assistant Business Unit Manager for Metropolitan Council Environmental Services, where he focuses on the operations and management of the region's interceptor system and lift stations. With a strong background in wastewater infrastructure, Isaac supports the reliable performance of critical conveyance systems that serve the Twin Cities metro area. His work helps ensure environmental compliance, operational efficiency, and long-term system sustainability.

#### **Presentation Abstract:**

Isaac will provide an overview of the regional wastewater collection system serving the Twin Cities. This session will highlight the scale and function of over 600 miles of interceptors and 60+ lift stations that move wastewater from 100+ communities to treatment plants. Learn how MCES manages operations, maintenance, and coordination with local partners, while addressing challenges like aging infrastructure and wet weather flows.