

League of Nebraska Municipalities

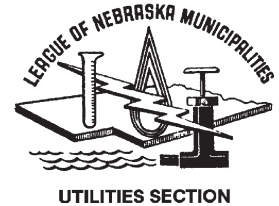
2025 Utilities/Public Works
Section Annual Conference



UTILITIES/PUBLIC WORKS SECTION

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JANUARY 8-10, 2025
Graduate Hotel, Lincoln



Tentative Conference Program (subject to change)

Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025

11:30 am **Registration** at Graduate Hotel for Preconference Seminar.

Noon-5 pm **Preconference Seminar: Let's Build Your Legacy – Asset Management Plans.** Want to leave your utility in a better position than when you started? Do you have years of experience and knowledge that will help your utility run more effectively in the future? Then it's time to leave your legacy. This session will focus on how a few hours of your time can develop a basic asset management plan and leave a long-lasting legacy of your efforts for the betterment of your utility.
Brian Bohnsack, PhD, Program Manager – Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs, Wichita State University
John Colclazier, Program Manager – Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs, Wichita State University

This seminar is designed for 5 water credit hours and 5 backflow credit hours. This is a "stand-alone" session. Preconference Seminar attendees do not have to register for the entire conference. (See registration form.)

Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025

*(Water, wastewater, and engineering contact hours are available for many sessions.)
(Coffee and rolls available until 10 am)*

8:30 am **Registration**
Visit Display Area

8:55-9 am **Welcome**
Lash Chaffin, Utilities Section Director, LNM

9-10 am **General Session:**
• **Lead Line Survey and Replacement:** Where does Nebraska stand?
Taylor Benzel, Supervisor, Monitoring and Compliance – Drinking Water and Groundwater Division, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy

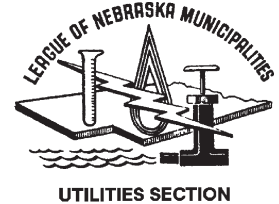
10-11 am **General Session:**
• **Cybersecurity Awareness, Preparedness and Assessments.** Wow, the world changed fast!
Greg Goodwater, Protective Security Advisor – Region 7, U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Nicholas Brand, Cybersecurity Advisor/Cybersecurity Coordinator – Region 7, U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

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Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025 (con't.)

- 11 am-12 pm **General Session:**
- **The Status of New Federal Standards on Which Employees are Eligible for Overtime**
Tara Stingley, Partner, Cline Williams Wright Johnson and Oldfather LLP
Sydney Huss, Attorney, Cline Williams Wright Johnson and Oldfather LLP
- 12-1 pm **Lunch**
- 1-1:15 pm **Utilities Section Annual Business Meeting**
- 1:15-1:30 pm **Break**
- 1:30-2:30 pm **Track Sessions:**
- **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations:** Changes in the law.
Bridgett Petzoldt, Product Manager – Alternative Energy Solutions, OPPD
 - **When is it Necessary to Use an Engineer or Architect?**
Allyson Bennett, Public Information Officer, Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects
- 2:30-3:30 pm **Track Sessions:**
- **Landlord Responsibility for Unpaid Utility Bills**
Lash Chaffin, Utilities Section Director, LNM
 - **NDOT Infrastructure Grant Portal:** Potential funding made easier.
Jenna Habegger, PMP, Highway Planning Manager – Nebraska Infrastructure HUB, Local Assistance Division – Nebraska Department of Transportation
Dina Harris, Highway Programs Specialist – Nebraska Infrastructure HUB, Local Assistance Division – Nebraska Department of Transportation
- 3:30-4:30 pm **Track Sessions:**
- **PFA Regulations Are Now in Effect:** Water, wastewater and solid waste facilities need to pay close attention.
Vanessa A. Silke, Partner, Baird Holm LLP
Matt Robinson, Associate, Baird Holm LLP
 - **Personal Cell Phones and Computers Utilized by Nebraska Utility Staff:** What does the law actually say?
Christy Abraham, Legal Counsel, LNM
- 4:30-5:30 pm **Track Sessions:**
- **Biology 101 for Municipal Utilities and Public Works Departments**
Jackson Sash, Utilities Field Representative/Training Coordinator, LNM
 - **What are the Steps for a Customer to Sue Your Utility**
Lash Chaffin, Utilities Section Director, LNM

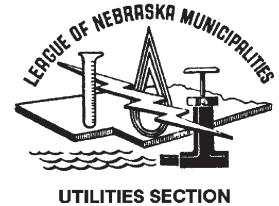
Dinner on your own. Enjoy Lincoln's many fine restaurants.

UTILITIES/PUBLIC WORKS SECTION

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JANUARY 8-10, 2025

Graduate Hotel, Lincoln



Friday, Jan. 10, 2025

8-10:30 am **Coffee and Rolls Available** – Visit Display Area

8:30-9:30 am **General Session:**
• **Nebraska's New One Call "Hit Court"**
Regina Shields, Agency Legal Counsel and Legislative Liaison, Nebraska State Fire Marshal Agency
Jill Geyer, Nebraska 811 – One Call Concepts, Inc.

9:30-10:30 am **General Session:**
• **Hall of Shame Utility and Public Works Injuries: STOP DOING THESE THINGS!**
John Hobbs, Loss Control Specialist, League Association of Risk Management (LARM)

10:30-11 am **General Session:**
• **First Look at How New Changes to Revenue and Spending Lids Will Affect Utilities and Public Works Departments**
Christy Abraham, Legal Counsel, LNM
Lash Chaffin, Utilities Section Director, LNM

11 am-12 pm **General Session:**
• **Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act Update**
Laura Johnson, Division Administrator – Drinking Water and Groundwater Division, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy

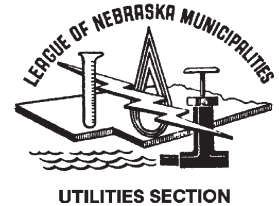
12-12:30 pm **General Session:**
• **Municipal Utility and Public Works Legislative and Regulatory Update:** Whether you have a water, wastewater, electric, natural gas, street, recreation or other department, the Nebraska Legislature has a tremendous effect on how you do business. Do not miss the latest information on legislative and regulatory activities.
Christy Abraham, Legal Counsel, LNM
Lash Chaffin, Utilities Section Director, LNM

12:30 pm **Adjournment**
Please drive safely.

UTILITIES/PUBLIC WORKS SECTION

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

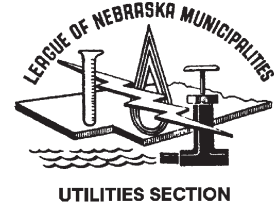
JANUARY 8-10, 2025
Graduate Hotel, Lincoln



Conference Information

- ❑ Conference sessions will be held at the Graduate Hotel, 141 N 9th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508.
 - ❑ To make room reservations, call 1-402-475-4011 or [book online](#).
 - ❑ The room rate is \$139 for a queen/queen or king.
 - ❑ Check-in time is 4 p.m.; check-out time is 11 a.m.
 - ❑ The room block will be released **December 17**. Contact the hotel before that date to secure a reservation.
 - ❑ Preregistration deadline is **December 18**. Registrations received after this date will incur higher registration costs.
 - ❑ The League office needs to receive sponsor fund and display forms by **December 18** to meet printing deadlines.
 - ❑ Advance delegate registrations not cancelled by **December 18**, or “no-shows” will be billed for any meal tickets reserved.
 - ❑ If you need special accommodations or equipment at this conference, contact the League office by **December 18**.
 - ❑ Water, wastewater, and engineering credit hours will be available. Contact Lash Chaffin for details.
 - ❑ For your comfort, we recommend that you wear layered clothing or bring a jacket because heating and cooling conditions may vary.
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UTILITIES/PUBLIC WORKS SECTION 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE JANUARY 8-10, 2025 Graduate Hotel, Lincoln



Delegate Registration

Municipality: _____

Name: _____

Water (1-4) Grade: _____ License #: _____

Backflow Grade 6 License #: _____

Wastewater Grade: _____ License #: _____

Title: _____

First League Conference? Yes _____ No _____

Check # _____ enclosed for \$ _____ (Advanced payment encouraged)

Billing address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

	Through December 18	After December 18
Wednesday Preconference Seminar attendance:	_____ \$110	_____ \$135
Thursday & Friday Conference attendance: (Preconference and meal are not included) Per city/village official, League/Utilities Section Member	_____ \$395	_____ \$425
Conference Total:	\$ _____	
Meal: (not included in registration fee; indicate number needed)		
Thursday Luncheon	_____ \$31	
Meal Total:	\$ _____	
Grand Total:	\$ _____	

Conference Information

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- Advanced registrations not cancelled by **December 18** or "no shows" will be billed for meal tickets reserved.
- If you need special accommodations, contact the League office by **December 18**.

Mail registration and payment to: Utilities Section, 206 S 13th Street, Suite 800, Lincoln, NE 68508

Fax: 402-476-7052

Email: info@lonm.org

[Click Here to Register and Pay Online](#) ***PLEASE NOTE -- There is a credit card processing fee included for each item.***