

MWWA 2026 SUMMER EXPO – TECHNICAL SESSION

Drones in Water Utilities: Modern Tools for Smarter Operations

MWWA Course: MWWA 26-006; MA Wastewater: BC-2026-3904

Drones, also known as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), are rapidly gaining traction in the waterworks industry for their ability to capture high-resolution video and imagery of existing assets and support assessments of critical infrastructure projects.

This technical session will provide an overview of current drone technologies, the regulations that govern their operation, and real-world case studies from Massachusetts water utilities.

Note: Early registration is advised to secure your spot. Due to room capacity, space is limited.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the capabilities, limitations, and applications of modern drone technologies within water utility operations.
- Identify key federal and state regulatory requirements that govern drone use, including operator certification and operational restrictions.
- Evaluate the factors involved in deciding between hiring a drone service provider and establishing an in-house drone program

This course is approved for **2.0 TCHs** (Training Contact Hours) for Massachusetts Water and Wastewater operators as well as Rhode Island Water Operators.

LOCATION: Wachusett Mountain Ski Resort – Route 140, Princeton, MA

DATE Thursday, August 27, 2026

TIME: 8:15 AM – 10:30 AM

PRESENTERS: Lauren Newman (Springfield Water & Sewer Commission, Kevin Martel (USGWater), Todd Melanson & Riley Gould (Billerica), David Cote (CEI Engineers), Andrew Stack (Tewksbury)

COST: \$50 Tech Session Only // \$99 Tech Session & Food Station Pass

AGENDA	8:15 – 8:30 AM	Sign-in & Introductions
	8:30 – 9:00 AM	Overview of Drone Technologies
		Regulatory Requirements
	9:00 – 10:15 AM	Examples and Case Studies
	10:15 – 10:30 AM	Conclusions & Course Evaluations

Registration must be made in advance and on-line (www.masswaterworks.org). If you need registration assistance, please email adminmwwa@masswaterworks.org or call 978-263-1388.

ATTENDANCE & TCH POLICY: Participants must attend 90% of the program and complete an assessment and a session evaluation form to be eligible for TCHs. TCHs will be issued only if full payment has been received.