2026

# IPWMAN CONFERENCE

October 20 & 21

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Bloomington, IL







IPWMAN

ILLINOIS PUBLIC WORKS MUTUAL AID NETWORK





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IPWMAN
ILLINOIS PUBLIC WORKS MUTUAL AID NETWORK

# Conference at a Glance

## Tuesday, October 20

| Time | Event |
|---|---|
| 11:00 a.m. | **Conference Registration** |
| 11:45 a.m. | **President's Welcome and Exhibitor Introductions**<br>Vince Kilcullen, IPWMAN President |
| 12:00 p.m. | **When the Ground Shifts: Public Works Mutual Aid for a New Madrid Earthquake**<br>Scott C. Gauvin |
| 1:00 p.m. | **IPWMAN General Membership Meeting** |
| 2:00 p.m. | **Break and Snack** |
| 2:15 p.m. | **The Kankakee Tornado: National Weather Service Decision Support Services**<br>Mike Bardou, Jared Maples, Ed Shimon |
| 3:15 p.m. | **Kanakee Tornado Response**<br>Shaun Luedtke, Becky Powell, Lucas Stroud |
| 4:15 p.m. | **IPWMAN Operations Hour**<br>Chris Drey |
| 5:15 p.m. | **Reception and Washers Tournament** |

IPWMAN
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# Wednesday, October 21

IPWMAN
Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network

| Session 1 | 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. |
|---|---|
| **Room** | **Session Title** |
| Brickyard 1 | **See It Before It Happens: Defensive Driving for Public Works**<br>D.J. Flick |
| Brickyard 2 | **Planning for Success using AI in Planning and Response**<br>Joseph Gasparich |
| Brickyard 3 | **Trees, Infrastructure, and Construction Principles**<br>Joe Hansen |
| Brickyard 4 | **Municipal Fleet Oversight**<br>Anthony Bavuso |
| Brickyard 5 | **Storm Response Planning**<br>John Beckman |
| **Session 2** | **9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.** |
| Brickyard 1 | **Ready, Set, Snow: Utilizing NWS Winter Services for Public Works Partners**<br>Mike Bardou, Jared Maples, Ed Shimon |
| Brickyard 2 | **Building a Culture of Preparedness - How Emergency Planning and Tabletop Exercises Build a More Resilient Organization**<br>Gary Holm, Max Weiss |
| Brickyard 3 | **Forestry Storm Response Panel**<br>Joe Hansen, Greg Soltwisch, Graham Strebler |
| Brickyard 4 | **Seeing the Disaster Clearly: Modern Disaster Assessment for Local Governments**<br>Brian Nestler |
| Brickyard 5 | **How Our Changing Climate is Affecting Plants and Their Response to Drought, Decline, and New Pest Threats**<br>Fredric Miller |
| **Break** | **10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** |
| Prefuction Area | **Break and Snack** |
| **Session 3** | **10:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.** |
| Brickyard 1 | **Cook County Deployment: Inside the IPWMAN Response**<br>Chris Drey, Mark Doerfler. Vince Kilcullen, David Koehler |
| **Session 4** | **11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.** |
| Brickyard 1 | **When Every Minute Counts: Understanding IPWMAN's Role in Emergency Response**<br>Chris Drey, Mark Doerfler |

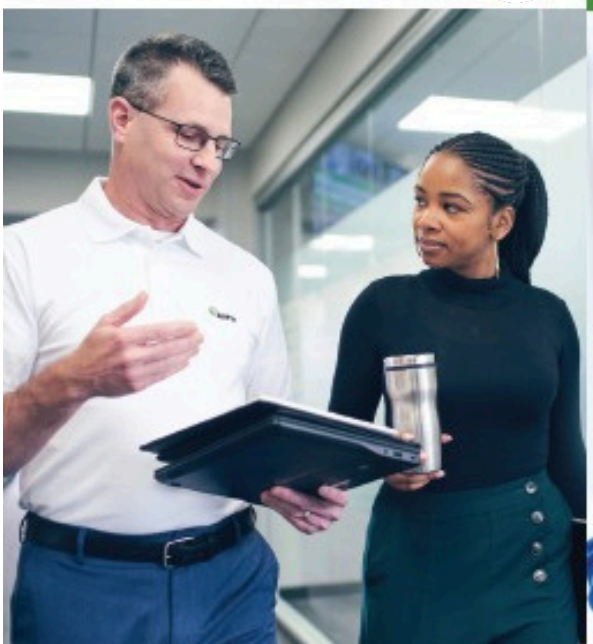


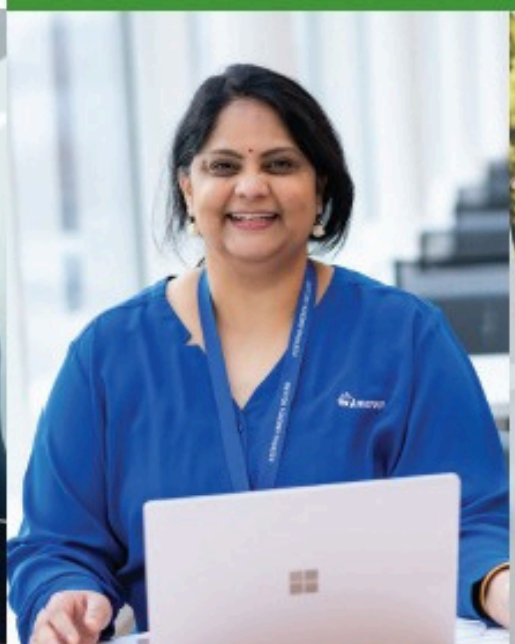

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# Detailed Conference Agenda

## Tuesday, October 20

**11:00 – 11:45 AM**
**Conference Registration**
Prefuntion Area

**11:45 – 12:00 PM**
**President's Welcome and Exhibitor Introductions**
*Vince Kilcullen*
Brickyard 1 & 2

**12:00 – 1:00 PM**
**When the Ground Shifts: Public Works Mutual Aid for a New Madrid Earthquake**
*Scott Gaulvin*
Brickyard 1 & 2

A major earthquake affecting Illinois would quickly overwhelm local public works capabilities and require a coordinated, sustained mutual-aid response. This presentation examines the anticipated impacts of a significant New Madrid Seismic Zone earthquake on transportation networks, water and wastewater systems, utilities, debris management, public facilities, and other community lifelines. Drawing on Illinois' current earthquake planning efforts, Scott Gauvin will discuss the critical missions public works officials may be asked to perform, the operational challenges responders could face, and the personnel, equipment, contracts, communications, and mutual-aid agreements needed before the event. Attendees will leave with practical considerations for strengthening agency readiness, protecting responders, and supporting communities during a complex, long-duration earthquake response.

**1:00 – 2:00 PM**
**IPWMAN General Membership Meeting**
Brickyard 1 & 2

**2:00 - 2:15 PM**
**Break and Snack**
Prefuntion Area

# Detailed Conference Agenda

## Tuesday, October 20

**2:15 – 3:15 PM**

**The Kankakee Tornado: National Weather Service Decision Support Services**

*Mike Bardou, Jared Maples & Ed Shimon*

Brickyard 4 & 5

This session will provide a detailed look at the flow of weather forecast information and decision support services available before, during, and after the severe weather outbreak of March 10th, 2026. The discussion will include a description of NWS post event damage assessments and potential collaborative opportunities in the future.

**3:15 – 4:15 PM**

**Kankakee Tornado Response**

*Shaun Luedtke, Becky Powell & Lucas Stroud*

Brickyard 4 & 5

In this session, I will share our firsthand experience responding to and recovering from the March 10 tornado in Kankakee County. I'll discuss what worked well, the challenges we encountered, and what we would do differently next time, with a focus on practical lessons that other local agencies can use to prepare for and efficiently respond to a major disaster.

**4:15 – 5:15 PM**

**IPWMAN Operations Hour**

*Chris Drey*

Brickyard 4 & 5

This session will provide a quick review of recent IPWMAN storm activations, outline the improvements currently underway, and highlight the need to expand and train our Duty Officer team. We'll also introduce future initiatives, including the development of a centralized Duty Officer Hub and enhanced ESRI/GIS tools to strengthen statewide response.

**5:15 – 9:00 PM**

**Reception and Washers Tournament**

Prefuntion Area

# Detailed Conference Agenda

## Wednesday, October 21

**8:00-9:00 AM Breakout Session 1**

**See It Before It Happens: Defensive Driving for Public Works**
*D.J. Flick*
Brickyard 1

This risk management presentation focuses on the driving exposures Public Works employees encounter every day. Through practical examples and real-world scenarios, the session examines common crash causes, defensive driving principles, hazard recognition, and the role employees and supervisors play in preventing vehicle losses.

**Planning for Success using AI in Planning and Response**
*Joseph Gasparich*
Brickyard 2

This session will highlight how AI can assist planners in preparing for and responding to events. Participants will be given information on the many AI tools that are available . The session will also highlight the use of NIMS/ICS in planning for events.

**Trees, Infrastructure, and Construction Principles**
*Joe Hansen*
Brickyard 3

Conflicts between trees and infrastructure are often unavoidable. Preventing unnecessary tree damage during construction, installation, or repair begins with understanding basic construction principles and how these activities affect a tree's structural and physiological systems. This presentation will explore practical methods and effective strategies for preserving trees when feasible throughout the construction process.

**Municipal Fleet Oversight**
*Anthony Bavuso*
Brickyard 4

A discussion on municipal fleet operations covering Entry-Level Driver requirements, common Federal Motor Carrier questions, and general fleet conditions.

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# Detailed Conference Agenda

## Wednesday, October 21

**Storm Response Planning**
*John Beckman*
Brickyard 5

Glen Ellyn PW set out to develop a Storm Response plan after a failed response in the Fall of 2025. Little did we know that the Summer of 2026 would give us multiple opportunities to sharpen and develop a polished Storm Response Plan.

### 9:15-10:15 AM Breakout Session 2

**Ready, Set, Snow: Utilizing NWS Winter Services for Public Works Partners**
*Mike Bardou, Jared Maples & Ed Shimon*
Brickyard 1

Join us for an interactive weather scenario where we'll demonstrate the latest winter weather forecast services from the National Weather Service. We'll replicate the flow of information available leading up to winter weather events and use it to make decisions about expected conditions and the response needed to address them. This two way discussion will allow NWS staff to become better aware of the challenges faced and the decision making process implemented by our public works and DOT partners.

**Building a Culture of Preparedness - How Emergency Planning and Tabletop Exercises Build a More Resilent Organization**
*Gary Holm & Max Weiss*
Brickyard 2

Emergency planning can be overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be. The presentation will focus on practical tips and actions that every organization can take to become better prepared for emergencies. The presentation will stress the importance of building a culture of preparedness that will prove to be beneficial in times of emergencies. Attendees will gain knowledge about emergency planning and how to organize and conduct tabletop exercises. Attendees will gain access to documents that they can use to begin planning for their own organization.

**Forestry Storm Response Panel**
*Joe Hansen, Greg Soltwisch & Graham Strebler*
Brickyard 3

This panel will explore the varying approaches municipalities take in responding to and recovering from severe storm events. Panelists will share their experiences and answer questions about storm response, cleanup, and recovery. The panel will feature City Forester Graham Strebler of Rolling Meadows, Village Forester Greg Soltwisch of Downers Grove, and Tree Preservation Officer Joe Hansen of Wilmette.

# Detailed Conference Agenda

## Wednesday, October 21

### Seeing the Disaster Clearly: Modern Disaster Assessment for Local Governments

*Brian Nestler*

Brickyard 4

Disaster assessment is undergoing a rapid transformation driven by advances in geospatial technology, unmanned aerial systems (UAS), and data analytics. At the same time, local and state governments are increasingly expected to assume greater responsibility for damage assessment and recovery decision-making as federal disaster assistance becomes more uncertain. This session examines how modern assessment tools can help jurisdictions meet these expanding demands while improving the speed, accuracy, and equity of post-disaster recovery.

Participants will explore how Geographic Information Systems (GIS), drones, satellite imagery, and emerging analytical tools have reshaped disaster assessment from a primarily field-based inspection process into a data-driven function that directly informs public safety decisions, funding eligibility, and long-term recovery planning. The session emphasizes that disaster assessment is no longer solely a function of recovery teams determining assistance, but a critical public-policy and governance responsibility with real implications for community trust and resilience.

As reliance on federal resources, particularly FEMA damage assessment teams and federal validation processes, becomes less predictable, local jurisdictions must build internal capacity to conduct credible, defensible, and interoperable assessments. Information from disaster assessments steers critical decisions from the initial response well into long-term recovery. This session highlights how local agencies can leverage modern technology to reduce responder risk, improve situational awareness, and support transparent decision-making, even in resource-constrained environments. Participants will also examine key limitations and challenges, including workforce training, data standards, privacy considerations, and the need for clear governance frameworks.

By the end of the session, attendees will better understand how integrating technology with policy, planning, and professional judgment allows local governments to move beyond "damage counting" toward actionable decision intelligence. The session provides practical insights for emergency managers, planners, and public administrators seeking to strengthen local disaster assessment capabilities in an era of increasing disaster frequency and evolving federal support.

# Detailed Conference Agenda

## Wednesday, October 21

**How Our Changing Climate is Affecting Plants and Their Response to Drought, Decline, and New Pest Threats**
*Fredric Miller*
Brickyard 5

The wet spring, dry and hot July, and excessively wet and stormy summer of 2026 left its mark on woody landscape plants and trees across Illinois. In this session, Dr. Fredric Miller will discuss how drought stress and flooding disrupts plant function, weakens natural defenses, and increases susceptibility to pests and diseases. Using the oak decline model, we will attempt to get a better understanding of how excessive precipitation combined with drought can predispose plants to root rots, stress-related cankers and borers. The session will conclude with an update on the latest new pests and diseases including spotted lanternfly (SLF), elm zigzag sawfly (EZZSF), and a new disease of Carpinus spp.

**10:15-10:30 AM Break and Snack**
Prefuntion Area

**10:30-11:30 AM Breakout Session 3**
**Cook County Deployment: Inside the IPWMAN Response**
*Chris Drey, Mark Doerfler, Vince Kilcullen & David Koehler*
Brickyard 1

This panel offers an inside look at how IPWMAN mobilized, coordinated, and operated during the Cook County deployment. Panelists will break down the realities of rapid activation, shifting field conditions, resource challenges, and critical decision-making under pressure. Attendees will gain practical, transferable lessons to strengthen readiness, leadership, and interagency cooperation for future incidents.

# Detailed Conference Agenda

## Wednesday, October 21

**11:45-12:45 PM Breakout Session 4**

**When Every Minute Counts: Understanding IPWMAN's Role in Emergency Response**

*Chris Drey & Mark Doerfler*

Brickyard 1

In this session, Mark Doerfler, a seasoned leader in Illinois public works emergency management, will provide a practical, behind-the-scenes look at how the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN) mobilizes resources when communities need help the most. Joined by Chris Drey, they will explain how IPWMAN coordinates mutual aid across the state, the steps involved in activating support, and what local agencies can expect during the critical first operational periods of an incident.

Participants will gain a clearer understanding of IPWMAN's mission, the call-out and coordination process, the types of events that trigger activation, and the logistical and communications framework that ensures rapid and effective response. Real-world insights and field experience will highlight how IPWMAN helps public works teams stabilize incidents, protect infrastructure, and restore essential services when every minute truly counts.

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# Conference Speakers

**Thank you to our conference speakers for sharing their time, expertise, and insights to make the IPWMAN Conference a success!**

**Mike Bardou, Warning Coordination Meteorologist – National Weather Service - Chicago**
Mike is the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the Chicago National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast Office in Romeoville, IL where he serves as the primary interface with NWS partners. Mike previously held a senior forecaster position at the office and led the Aviation and Marine programs.

**Anthony Bavuso, Fleet Operations Superintendent - Village of Oswego**
Anthony Bavuso Shop Operations Superintendent for the Village of Oswego.

- ASE Certified Master Medium/Heavy Vehicle Technician
- Completed D.O.T. Inspection Training Through Triton College while working for Navistar as a research and development mechanic
- Associates Degree in Aerospace Ground Equipment from the Community College of the Air Force
- United States Air Force Aerospace Ground Equipment Mechanic-Retired 2019
- Since 1996, I have worked as an automotive mechanic in many different forms including dealerships, refuse fleets, vehicle manufactures research and development departments, municipal, and the United States Military.

**John Beckman, Street Superintendent - Village of Glen Ellyn**
I have been involved in Public Works for over 27 years. Starting as a seasonal, to part-time, to full-time Maintenance Worker and now a Superintendent with Glen Ellyn Public Works for the last 4 years.

**Mark Doerfler, Executive Director – IPWMAN**
While serving as the Highway Commissioner of Wauponsee Township in Grundy County (14 years), Mark became actively involved in the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network and was elected Secretary in 2015, then hired as the first Executive Director of IPWMAN in 2023. Mark has been deployed numerous times as part of an Incident Management Team to assist stricken agencies in organizing the IPWMAN resources responding to the incident. He has chaired the annual IPWMAN conference for the past several years.

Mark has spent 24 years working in the fire service retiring from both the City of Champaign Fire Department (16 years) and the Morris Fire Protection District (20 years). Before becoming a firefighter, Mark taught a variety of high school Industrial Arts classes and has a bachelor's degree in construction management from Illinois State University.

Mark was born and raised in Morris, Illinois, and currently resides in Warrenville, Illinois. He is married and is the father of two active sons and, while no formal training is available for fatherhood, he has learned most of his disaster management skills from them.

# Conference Speakers

**Chris Drey, Director - Village of Romeoville**
My career started back in 1989 at the Village of Bolingbrook. In 1990, I assisted with the cleanup of the Plainfield tornado, this event helped chart my course to want to be a positive public servant. Since that event I have been assisted with several natural disasters: snow, tornadoes, floods and even an oil leak. Current Operations Chairman with IPWMAN for the last three years and enjoy working with the IPWMAN duty supervisors and board members also serve as the liaison between APWA Chicago Metro chapter and IPWMAN. I have worked for three great communities with support of my family.

**D.J. Flick, Senior Loss Control Consultant - Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency**
D.J. is currently employed by the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA), where he works with member municipalities and public entities to strengthen risk-management practices through compliance-focused guidance, inspections, policy implementation, and operational accountability.

He brings a broad public-sector background that includes service with the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT). Across these roles, he has worked in high-accountability environments where safety, security, documentation, inspections, policy adherence, and sound decision-making are critical to effective operations.

His experience includes conducting and supporting operational inspections, identifying risk exposures, interpreting and applying policies and procedures, promoting workplace safety, and helping ensure organizational practices align with regulatory and operational expectations. He understands the importance of clear policies, consistent implementation, accurate documentation, and proactive oversight in maintaining safe, efficient, and compliant workplaces.

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# Conference Speakers

**Joseph V. Gasparich, Emergency Manager - Illinois Department of Transportation and Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency**
Joseph V. Gasparich is serving as the Emergency Manager for the Central Bureau of Operations at the Illinois Department of Transportation. Joe is responsible for plan updates and is part of IDOT's Planning Team that is revising and updating the State of Illinois Earthquake Response Plan.Joe has also updated other plans for IDOT utilizing AI resources to acquire information and explore new ideas in the planning field. Joe has been serving at IDOT since April 1, 2024

Joe served as the Bureau Chief for the Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness for the Illinois Department of Human Services.

In December of 2018, Joe served as the lead public information officer for the response to the tornedo that struck Taylorville, Illinois.

Mr. Gasparich was the Homeland Security Program Director for the Illinois Fire Service Institute.

Mr. Gasparich also is a “red carded” public information officer and planning section chief.

Mr, Gasparich deployed to New Orleans in September of 2005 to work with the Illinois MABAS teams to help develop a workable command system for the New Orleans Fire Department. He has also assisted in the 2008 floods on the Mississippi River and worked with the Chicago Fire Department in the 2008 Election Night rally in Grant Park.

Previous to his employment at IFSI, Mr. Gasparich was the Exercise Training Officer for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

Mr. Gasparich was also chief of the Nokomis Area Fire Protection District for ten years and has served in the volunteer fire service since 1983.

Mr. Gasparich spent 7 years teaching in the public school system.

Mr. Gasparich received his BA in Biology from Sangamon State University in 1983.

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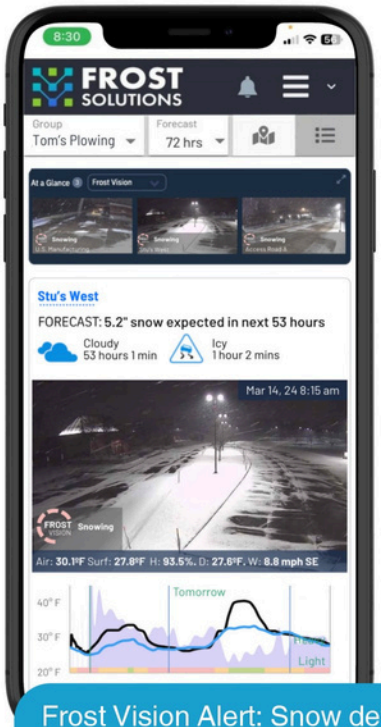



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# Conference Speakers

**Scott Gauvin, Manager of Strategic Operations and Preparedness – Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security**
Scott Gauvin is an emergency management professional with more than two decades of experience in state-level emergency operations, strategic planning, preparedness, accreditation, and disaster response. He currently serves as the Manager of Strategic Operations and Preparedness for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS), where he leads strategic planning initiatives and manages the Inter-Agency Strategic Planning Cell (ISPC).

In his current role, Scott coordinates multidisciplinary planning efforts involving state agencies, local governments, federal partners, private-sector stakeholders, and other whole-community partners. His work focuses on developing and maintaining comprehensive emergency operations plans, consequence management strategies, continuity initiatives, hazard-specific response plans, and operational tools designed to strengthen Illinois' ability to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate disasters.

**Joe Hansen, Tree Preservation Officer - Village of Willmette**
Joe Hansen is an ISA Certified Arborist Urban Forest Professional, Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (TRAQ), and is a TCIA Certified Tree Care Safety Professional (CTSP). Joe is the Village Forester/Tree Preservation Officer for the Village of Wilmette, Illinois, serves on the Illinois Arborist Association (IAA) Board of Directors as the President, serves as the Chair of the Urban & Community Forestry Committee on the Illinois Forestry Development Council, and is a Task Specialist on the Illinois Urban Forest Strike Team.

**Gary Holm, Public Works Director - Retired - City of Batavia**
Gary Holm, PE - Mr. Holm served as the City of Batavia's Public Works Director from 2008 to 2025. In his role he oversaw all aspects of the department, including emergency planning and exercises. Mr. Holm served as an IPWMAN Board Member from 2009 to 2023. He was directly involved with numerous deployments and coordinated response resources. Mr. Holm retired from Batavia and currently works for private consultant where he continues to coordinate emergency planning and tabletop exercises for clients.

**Vince Kilcullen, Superintendent - Village of Algonquin**
I have worked for the Village of Algonquin for 29 years. I have been involved with IPWMAN for over 14 years. Helped Steve Ludwig start the IRSP program and have continued to assist with the program, and send staff to the program.

**David Koehler, Assistant Manager of Highway Operations - Dupage County**
David Koehler has served DuPage County for 18 years and currently holds the position of Assistant Manager of Highway Operations. He has also served as the Region 4 Director for the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN) for the past three years.

His IPWMAN deployment experience includes serving as a Task Force Leader during the McComb deployment and, most recently, as the Operations Section Chief during the Cook County deployment. David brings extensive experience in public works operations, leadership, and emergency response.

# Conference Speakers

**Shaun Luedtke, Engineering Manager - Kankakee County Highway Department**
I helped oversee the maintenance and operation of our county highway system. Following the March 10 tornado that impacted Kankakee County, I was heavily involved in coordinating our response and cleanup efforts. That experience provided valuable lessons in emergency response, interagency coordination, debris management, and disaster recovery.

**Jared Maples, Meteorologist - NOAA/National Weather Service - St. Louis**
Jared Maples is a meteorologist at NWS St. Louis who specializes in decision-support services (DSS) to core partners to further public safety aims across Missouri and Illinois.

**Fredric Miller, IDNR Forest Health Specialist - The Morton Arboretum**
Dr. Fredric Miller is Senior Scientist – Entomology at The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois and currently serves as the Illinois DNR Forest Health specialist.

He received his B.S.F. in Forest Management from the University of Missouri, a M.S. in Forest Entomology from the University of Arkansas, and a Ph.D. in Urban Forest Entomology, with a minor in Plant Pathology, from Iowa State University.

He is actively involved with the Illinois chapter (IAA) of the ISA, the Illinois Forestry Association (IFA), and the National Walnut Council (NWC).

His applied research focuses on insect pests, pathogens, and abiotic factors affecting urban and rural forests, and EAB population dynamics.

**Brian Nestler, Adjunct Professor - Harper College**
Brian Nestler is an Adjunct Professor of the Emergency Management program at Harper College. Brian has been active in disaster assessment operations for over a decade having been deployed all over the country in major disasters. He has directed state-wide disaster assessment operations while incorporating new technology and writing policy and procedures.He also created the first online course for disaster assessment for the American Red Cross while in his role as Disaster Response Manager for Illinois.

**Becky Powell, EMA Director - Kankakee County EMA (Kankakee Co. Sheriff Dept)**
I was heavily involved in coordinating our response and cleanup efforts. That experience provided valuable lessons in emergency response, interagency coordination, debris management, and disaster recovery.

# Conference Speakers

**Ed Shimon - NOAA Federal, Warning Coordination Meteorologist - NOAA/National Weather Service**
Ed is currently the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service (NWS) in Lincoln. Ed is in charge of the office's readiness for hazardous weather and public education on their hazardous weather safety program. He is also the primary liaison between the office and all the core partners. Ed has been with the NWS since 1994, after serving as an officer in the U.S. Navy during the first Gulf War. His time in the NWS has included stays in Madison, WI, Duluth, MN, and Lincoln, IL. Throughout his career in the National Weather Service, Ed has been very active in severe weather research, training, outreach, and computer administration.

**Gregory Soltwisch, Village Forester - Village of Downers Grove**
Greg Soltwisch is an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, TRAQ, PPQ, ISA Certified Urban Forest Professional, & TCIA Certified Tree Care Safety Professional (CTSP). Greg Soltwisch is, Village Forester of Village of Downers Grove (IL), with over 18 years of urban forestry experience. Greg also serves as an IAA Board Member as a Municipal Director. Greg also is a member of the Urban & Community Forestry Societies (UCFS) Accreditation Council and Young & Emerging Professional Committee member (YEP).

**Graham Strebler, City Forester - City of Rolling Meadows**
City Forester with 20 years at the City of Rolling Meadows and IPWMAN Region 4 director and Duty officer.

**Lucas Stroud, Assistant County Engineer - Kankakee County Highway Department**
I am the Assistant County Engineer for the Kankakee County Highway Department and have been serving in this role for approximately 8.5 years. I have a Bachelor of Science in Engineering.

I help oversee the maintenance and operation of our county highway system. Following the March 10 tornado that impacted Kankakee County, I was heavily involved in coordinating our response and cleanup efforts. That experience provided valuable lessons in emergency response, interagency coordination, debris management, and disaster recovery.

**Max Weiss, Assistant City Administrator - City of Batavia**
Max Weiss is the Assistant City Administrator for the City of Batavia, where he leads special projects, long-term initiatives, and process improvement efforts across all City departments. Before joining Batavia, Max served in a media relations role with the Illinois State Board of Education during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, communicating rapidly changing guidance to schools, families, and the public. That experience showed him how much a crisis response depends on the planning and relationships built beforehand, and it continues to shape his focus on preparedness and resiliency in local government. He holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Illinois Chicago.

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# General Membership Meeting Agenda

| Date: October 20,2026 | Time: 1:00p.m. |
|---|---|
| In-person Location: DoubleTree by Hilton, 10 Brickyard Dr., Bloomington, IL 61701 | |
| Teams Link: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/2771502889114737?p=FlHV6YvAZsN8z6sWPA | |

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call/Introductions

C. Public Comment

a. Approval of Minutes -- 2025 General Membership Meeting

D. Report of Officers

a. President's Report

b. Vice President Report

c. Treasurer's Report – 2026 Budget Update d.

Secretary's Report – New Members

E. Report of Standing Committees

a. Operations Committee – Chris Drey

b. APWA Liaison Update – Chris Drey

c. Management Committee – Executive Board

d. Membership Committee – Vacant

e. Nominating Committee – Vacant

f. Finance Committee – Aaron Howe

i. 2027 Budget Presentation

g. Social Media Committee – Hans Varga

h. Technology Committee – Colleen Martoccio

i. Marketing Committee – Chester Gorecki

j. Conference Committee – Chris Lemke

F. Old Business

a. Reorganization update – New membership agreements

G. New Business

a. Vote to approve the 2027 IPWMAN Budget

b. 2027 Membership Investment Policy Change

c. Membership Type Update

d. Any additional new business

H. Certification of the 2026 Election

I. Swearing in of Officers

a. Board of Directors

J. President's Vision for 2027

K. Next Meeting Date and Location

a. October 19, 2027 – Time to be determined

b. DoubleTree by Hilton, 10 Brickyard Dr., Bloomington, IL 61701

L. Adjournment

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# General Membership Meeting Minutes

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Date: | October21, 2025 | Time: | 1:00PM |
| In-person Location: | DoubleTree by Hilton, 10 Brickyard Drive, Bloomington, IL | | |
| Zoom Link: N/A | | | |

1) Call to Order – 1:00 PM

a) Vince Kilkullen called to order.

b) A moment of silence was observed in memory of Larry Lux, a founder of IPWMAN

2) Roll Call/Introductions

a) Secretary Joe Cronin conducted roll call and recognized representatives from member agencies in attendance. A quorum was declared present.

3) Public Comment -- None

4) Approval of Minutes

a) 2024 General Membership Meeting Minutes

i) Motion made

ii) Seconded

iii) Approved by voice vote.

iv) Motion passed

5) Report of Officers

a) President's Report

i) President Kilkullen recognized several individuals for their outstanding service and contributions to IPWMAN during the past year.

(1) Aaron Howe – Treasurer

(2) Karen Young – Village of Roselle

(3) Chris Drey – IPWMAN Vice President

ii) Awards were presented in recognition of their commitment and service to the organization.

iii) Retirement of Rob Hancock

b) Vice President Report

i) Vice President Chris Drey provided an update on committee activities, including:
   (1) Development of a Water Response Mission Ready Package
   (2) Operational and resource documentation efforts
   (3) Opportunities for member participation on IPWMAN committees.

ii) Members were encouraged to become actively involved in committee work and organizational initiatives.

c) Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Aaron Howe presented the financial report and proposed 2026 budget.

i) Key Highlights
   (1) Implementation of a new online payment and account management system
   (2) Improvements to financial and administrative processes
   (3) Growth in membership and sponsorship revenue
   (4) Continued investment in software, marketing, membership services, and administrative support.

ii) The proposed 2026 budget projects revenues of approximately $90,000 and expenditures of approximately $99,500.

d) Secretary's Report – Joe Cronin

i) New Members - Twenty-six new member agencies joined during 2025.

ii) Total Membership has grown to 518 member agencies.

6) Committee Reports

a) Operations Committee / APWA Liaison

i) Chris Drey reported on several mutual aid deployments during 2025, including responses involving:
   (1) Massac County
   (2) Williamson County
   (3) Algonquin
   (4) Aurora
   (5) Cary

ii) The committee reported estimated deployment savings exceeding $227,000 and provided updates regarding duty officer training and emergency management coordination efforts.

b) Membership and Nominating Committee

i) Karen Young encouraged members to recruit additional agencies and continue sharing experiences that demonstrate the benefits of IPWMAN Membership.

c) Finance Committee

i) No additional report was provided beyond Treasurer Howe's report.

d) Social Media Committee

i) Jeff Ruth reported on the organization's continued social media outreach and encouraged members to submit agency news, project information and event photos.

e) Technology Committee

i) Colleen Martoccio reported that migration from Google-based services to Microsoft platforms remains underway.

f) Marketing Committee

i) No report was presented.

g) Conference Committee

i) Chris Lemke thanked attendees, sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers, and committee members for their contributions to the success of the conference.

7) Old Business

a) Membership Agreement Update

i) An update was provided regarding membership agreement renewals.

ii) Approximately 40% of updated agreements had been received at the time of the meeting.

iii) Members were encouraged to submit outstanding agreements.

8) New Business

a) Membership Database Upgrade

i) An update was provided regarding them embership database modernization project.This project is expected to be completed within the coming months.

b) Slack Communication Platform

i) Members were introduced to a new Slack workspace intended to improve communication, collaboration, and information sharing among member agencies and duty officers.

c) Approval of 2026 Budget

i) The proposed 2026 Budget was presented for consideration.

(1) Motion to approve the 2026 IPWMAN Budget as presented.

(2) Second received

(3) Approved by voice vote

(4) Motion Carried

9) Election Certification

a) Karen Young certified the results of the 2025 Election.

i) Executive Officers

(1) President: Vince Kilkullen

(2) Vice President: Chris Drey

(3) Secretary: Joe Cronin

(4) Treasurer Aaron Howe

(a)

ii) Directors

(1) Region 4 Director: David Koehler

(2) Region 11 Director: Brandon Tanner

iii) The election results were certified and accepted by the membership.

10) Swearing-In of Officers

a) Past President Ed Markison administered the oath of office to President Vince Kilkullen.

b) President Kilcullen subsequently administered the oath of office to the remaining elected officers and directors.

11) President's Vision for 2026

a) PresidentKilcullen outlined priorities for the coming year, including:

i) Membership growth and engagement

ii) Training and preparedness

iii) Resource inventory development and deployment readiness

iv) Strategic partnerships and collaboration.

v) Enhanced communication and organizational visibility.

12) Next Meeting

a) The next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for October 2026 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington, Illinois. Additional details will be announced.

13) Adjournment

a) Motion – Adjourn the meeting

b) Seconded

c) Vote approved by voice vote

d) Motion carried.

e) The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:41 PM.

# Thank you for attending the 2026 IPWMAN Conference

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