

Over 400 of Nebraska's top water professionals will meet in Kearney on Nov. 4 and 5 to discuss the condition of the state's drinking water supplies and make plans to improve and preserve those resources for generations to come.

The 2009 Fall Conference of the Nebraska Section–American Water Works Association (AWWA) will be held Nov. 4 and 5 at the Holiday Inn in Kearney.

AWWA is the premiere organization in the state dedicated to the delivery of safe drinking water to every community in Nebraska.

Conference attendees will be invited to participate in more than 20 different presentations, including natural disaster preparedness for water systems; the effect of water appropriations on endangered species on the Lower Platte River; and case studies in treatment and distribution at places like Broadwater, Seward, York, and Lincoln.

More than 50 vendors will also be on display, sharing the latest in equipment and methods to help protect the most precious resource on the planet.

New to the conference this year is a water-tasting contest for public water systems that bring a sample of drinking water from their municipal supply.

The contest begins at 5 p.m. on Nov. 4, where a panel of judges will choose a winner that will be nominated to compete in the water-tasting competition at the National AWWA conference and exposition in June 2010 in Chicago.

The state's young water professionals and college students will also be well-represented at the statewide conference, helping to place their mark today on the water issues they will be responsible for managing tomorrow.

The fall conference is a joint event which also includes the Nebraska Water Environment Association and the Nebraska Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

These three organizations together represent more than 1,000 members working across business, industry, and the public sector to help ensure the quality and safety of the state's natural resources.

The fall conference is open to the public. To register or to obtain further details, please visit www.awwaneb.org.