

State News for NSPE Members

Central Montana Water Project Gets Boost from Congress

About 6,000 rural Montanans are one step closer to having high-quality well water available to their homes and businesses, according to a [Billings Gazette](#) article.

Congress has authorized the [Clean Water for Rural Communities Act](#), although the approval came four years later than originally assumed. This gives the Central Montana Regional Water Authority formal consent to seek federal funding to develop its rural water system. The system will service residents in and near nine communities west and south of the Big Snowy Mountains.

"We've been working since 2014 to get authorization, so it is a big deal," said Monty Sealey, project administrator.

Activity Underway on Passenger Rail Idea for Southern Montana

The Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority is wasting no time pursuing the idea of restoring passenger rail service across Southern Montana with initial meetings starting up to analyze how passenger and freight trains will share the track.

The Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority became an official organization a few weeks ago, with board members across the state meeting virtually Wednesday as they iron out details of the new effort, according to a KPAX report.

Rob Eaton, who heads Government Affairs and State Supported Service for Amtrak told the board there will be a lot of questions to be answered as the Authority moves forward.

"What type of intercity passenger train do you want? Where do you want it to go? Where do you want it to go? Do you want it to be with just within the State of Montana or do you want to connect to other states?" Eaton said. "And then where does it connect to other existing intercity passenger rail, part of the uniform part of

the network?”

[Read more.](#)

Licensing Board Meeting

The Montana Board of Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors will host its next meeting on **February 4** at 10 a.m.

Board meetings will be held by conference call because of COVID-19 safety protocols as offices are closed to the public. New agenda items may be added up to three business days before the meeting. For the most accurate agenda, please consult the board website at www.engineer.mt.gov.



NSPE’s **Job Board** is your one-stop resource for professional engineering employment. Whether you are on the hunt for your next career move or looking for today’s top engineering leaders and talent, you will find it here.

NSPE provides the tools PEs need to keep current in the profession and advance their careers.

Featured Job

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Bozeman, MT

[Civil Engineer](#)

Billings, MT

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Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

Society Announces New Executive

NSPE has announced Monika Schulz as the Society's new executive director and CEO, beginning February 15.

"As we embark on the new year, we are starting a new chapter in NSPE's history," says NSPE President Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE. "It is thrilling to be in this place where NSPE's volunteer leadership recognized the value that Monika's expertise and authentic leadership style will bring to our organization. Her collaborative, yet-data-driven, approach to management will facilitate the successful execution of our strategic plan, and she's demonstrated her ability to collaborate with state and local chapters to increase impact at her prior organizations."



Schulz has a long history in associations and a passion for the contributions they make to society. Before joining NSPE, she served for over five years as the CEO of the American String Teachers Association in Fairfax, Virginia. In this role, she collaborated with the organization's board on strategic planning, implementing data-driven decision making, and carrying out a rebranding initiative. She also built stronger ties among the organization's 50 state and local chapters, bolstered member engagement, and expanded a national conference and tradeshow as well as a national orchestra festival.

"I'm very excited to be joining the NSPE team," says Schulz, "and I look forward to collaborating with leadership, state societies, and the NSPE management team to further NSPE's vision, mission, and initiatives. Engineers make the world a better place in which to live, and I feel incredibly fortunate and proud to champion the important work of professional engineers."

Prior to serving as ASTA's CEO, Schulz spent 18 years at the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy, in multiple leadership roles, including six years as chief operating officer.

The Virginia Tech graduate is active in the American Society of Association Executives and holds the CAE designation as a certified association executive.

EWeek 2021 Focuses on the Future

Engineers Week, with the theme "**Imagining Tomorrow**," will take place **February 21–27**, and this year's focus will be on virtual role models, distance learning, and diversity and belonging.

[Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day](#) , or “Girl Day,” will also carry this theme forward and will be held on February 25. The focus will also be on virtual role models and diversity and belonging, but it will also feature special editions of DiscoverE’s “[Chats With Change Makers](#)” series in which a high school student interviews engineers and technicians who are working hard to make the world a better place.



This year’s [Future City Competition](#) theme is “Living on the Moon.” To adapt to the pandemic, teams will be allowed to work remotely and competitions will be virtual. Teams will make a video presentation of their cities, and their models will be presented in a slideshow format. There will be a live Q&A for the teams to answer questions about their models and presentations.

EWeek Event Dates

- Chats with Change Makers: new “season” began on September 25 and continues monthly.
- Future City Competition: September through April
- The Persist Series (formerly Global Marathon): begins January and continues monthly.
- Engineers Week: February 21–27, 2021
- Girl Day: February 25, 2021
- World Engineering Day: March 4, 2021

Access Your Member Benefit: 15 Free Webinars for 2021

To help members meet their continuing education requirements, NSPE has released a new slate of **15 free webinars** that will be available throughout 2021.

Members may earn credits by viewing the webinars from the comfort of their home or office and will receive an attendance certificate after passing a quiz with a score of 70% or higher. PDHs from these courses are recognized by most US states, including Florida.

FREE
15

Here's a sample of available webinar topics:

1. [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Serving the Public *](#)
2. [How to Lead Without Authority](#)
3. [Leading Project Teams: Emerging Technologies and Smart Design *](#)
4. [Licensing for Profitability, Agility and Growth for Small and Mid-Sized Engineering Firms](#)
5. [Passing Down Institutional Knowledge Through Coaching, Mentoring and Storytelling](#)
6. [The Saint Joseph Water Crisis: Lessons Learned in the Age of Deteriorating Water Infrastructure](#) (New York approval pending)

*Webinar has been approved for continuing education credit in New York

[Check out the complete lineup of 2021 courses.](#)

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