

Notes From...

Clancy Dempsey  
Executive Director

*Greetings*

Having spent the last three years with NeRWA as the Ground Water Specialist, I've worked with water systems across the state to develop and implement wellhead protection plans at the local level. This was a rewarding experience professionally and personally. The most gratifying aspect of the last three years has been the relationships that I have formed with water operators, village board members, city council persons, as well as staff from local and state agencies involved in wellhead protection. I suspect there are few jobs that allow you to meet so many people and develop so many friendships through the course of work. And so this is what I look forward to the most as I continue to serve Nebraska's small and rural water systems, albeit in a different capacity. On November 1, 2006 I began a new role and assumed the duties of Executive Director for NeRWA. I hope that this chapter is as rewarding as the previous. I look forward to strengthening friendships already made and building many new relationships.

The NeRWA Annual Conference will be held March 12-14<sup>th</sup> in Columbus. This three-day education and training event brings together nearly 600 professionals from across the drinking water and wastewater industries. The Conference is a chance to meet peers from across the state, share experiences, re-visit old friends, and make new ones. A focus of the 2007 Conference is to promote and enhance the image of the Nebraska water and wastewater professional. Through public relations, communication, and relationship building with our customers, funding agencies, and the regulatory community, we can advance the perception of our profession. This will benefit all of us in our day and those who will follow. I hope to see and meet many of you in Columbus!

On that note, I would like to encourage your community, your agency, or your business to reach out to the Nebraska Rural Water office and field staff. Emails, phone calls, letters, and personal visits to our office are always welcome. We look forward to hearing from you.