

Spread the Word

By Mike Lucas, Source Water Specialist

Another political election period is over and many newly elected persons are assuming their leadership roles in our communities. It's our responsibility as water operators to inform the newly elected/appointed officials about the importance and also the vulnerabilities of their citizens' drinking water sources. This includes: voting citizens, those too young to vote and future generations. As we know, we now have all of the water on this earth that we will ever have and only 1% of that is potable.

We have also seen in recent drought years the increased conflicts regarding water interests between states and municipal, industrial and agricultural interests. I expect that it will only become more intense, especially during drought cycles. Over the last year I have experienced an increasing numbers of calls from municipalities and rural water districts regarding concerns over protecting drinking water supplies. We've witnessed the expressions of concern regarding the proposed petroleum pipeline across the state.

Nebraska for the most part is well supplied with water. It's a natural resource here that rivals and, in my opinion, exceeds the importance and thus value of the petroleum and precious metal resources of other areas. Few people know better than we, as water operators, the importance of conserving and protecting our safe drinking water sources. Where would we be without them? We need to spread the word. Our legacy should at least equal our inheritance!